

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/101417 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

B66B

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/NO2004/000146

(22) International Filing Date: 14 May 2004 (14.05.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

20032220

15 May 2003 (15.05.2003)

NO

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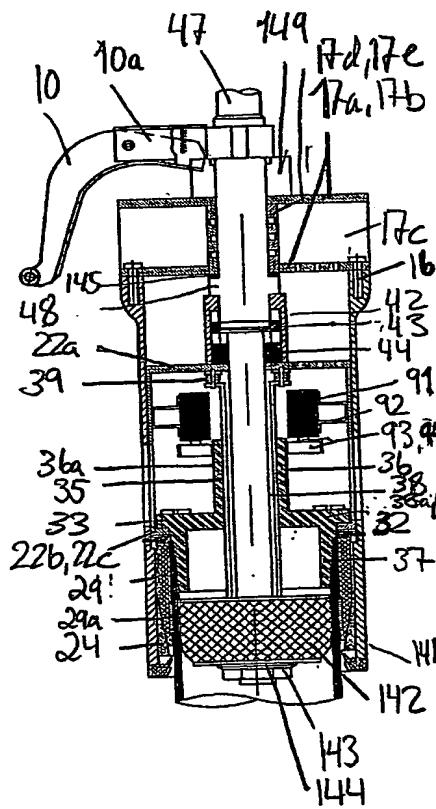
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(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INTERNAL RUNNING ELEVATOR



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a lifting tool for handling of a pipe-string (2) pipe length (3, 4) for joining and lowering or lifting and disassembly of conductor, casing, risers, drill string, or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160). The invention also relates to a lifting system for lifting or lowering pipe length (3, 4) and pipe-string (2), for joining and lowering or lifting and disassembling of conductor, casing, risers, drill string, or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160). The lifting system comprises a lifting tool with a lifting part (20) and a support part (5) connected to an elevator apparatus (70) which is mounted to a top drive (60) and where the lifting tool lifting part (20) shall operate in conjunction with a power slip (150) which is configured to receive and hold in a fixed position a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2). Finally the invention comprises a method for lifting of pipe length for joining of pipe length (3, 4) to a pipe-string (2), including conductor, casing, risers, or similar for use in a bore hole or well (160) with the use of a lifting system and lifting tool according to the invention.

WO 2004/101417 A2



Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

10/556902
JC12 Rec'd PCT/PCT 15 NOV 2005

WO 2004/101417

PCT/NO2004/000146

INTERNAL RUNNING ELEVATOR

This invention relates to a system and tool for handling and lifting oil & gas well casing sections / strings during connecting and installation or extraction and removal of casing / conductor, production casing, risers, drill strings, or other tubular goods, in a well / bore hole. This invention also encompasses a method for use of a lifting tool for this purpose.

Background of the Invention

Lifting and joining of pipe lengths to a standing pipe string with current technology is a time consuming and complicated task. Existing solutions require that a lifting apparatus for pipe lengths, to be installed on a top drive mounted pipe handling machine or derrick crane, and removed for each pipe length to be joined. Between lifting operations a drilling fluid, for example drilling mud, is circulated with special purpose equipment to maintain pressure in the bore hole. After each lifting operation and removal of the lifting tool, drilling circulation equipment must be installed on the top drive or derrick crane. When the next casing section shall be lifted into place, the drilling fluid circulation equipment must be removed and the lifting tool re-installed. This is a costly time consuming process, which commonly requires 4-5 hours to complete.

There is a need for a lifting system and tool, which reduces the time required to complete the lifting and joining procedure to an absolute minimum, where the lifting and joining operation is performed with the same tool. There is also a need for the ability to circulate drill fluids via the lifting tool without the requirement to install additional equipment. Furthermore there is a need for a lifting tool which can handle varying pipe sizes / diameters.

Description of Prior Art

Known methods of lifting and joining pipe lengths utilise a primitive chain and hook system for grasping and lifting the connecting nipple. A nipple is configured for connection to and from a threaded end of a pipe length to be lifted. The pipe section together with the installed nipple can be lifted by a chain and hook system as illustrated in fig. 15, which shows a nipple installed and removed at the top of a threaded pipe length.

Figure 16 illustrates a lifting clamp of known art positioned near the upper end of a casing length which is equipped with a protecting nipple at the top and coupling at the bottom. The nipple and coupling are removed from the casing held in place in the drill deck before lowering of the casing section.

Figure 17 illustrates how a casing section end is grasped with a clamp according to known art and how the casing length and casing string are screwed together with power tongs. The applicants' Norwegian patent, NO 307876, relates to a lifting tool for lifting of pipe lengths / lengths. The lifting tool according to NO 307876 encompasses a separate entry section or elastomer / elastomer-composite packing which expands upon activation of the lifting tool against the inside diameter of the casing section to be lifted. This lifting tool however is not configured for rotation about its' axial axis or for circulation of drilling fluids.

Summary of the Invention

The invention includes three versions of a lifting tool for handling of a pipe length during joining, lowering, or removal and disassembly of conductor, casing, risers, drill strings or similar in a bore hole or well as stated in claims 1, 37 and 55.

The invention also encompasses a lifting system for lifting or lowering pipe lengths (3,4) and drill string (2), during joining and lowering or removal and disassembly of

conductor, casing, risers, drill strings or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160) as stated in claim 74.

Finally the invention includes a method for lifting of pipe lengths for joining such (3,4) to a pipe string (2), similarly for casing, risers, drill strings or similar in a bore hole or well (160) as stated in claim 82.

The lifting system and lifting tool according to the invention have several advantages; the ability to lift a pipe length for joining with a standing pipe string, the ability to rotate about the tool axis for joining of the pipe length with the pipe string, and the possibility of filling or circulating drilling fluid to the bore hole via the lifting tool. The lifting tool can also be used with several different pipe dimensions.

Additional advantages and details of the invention are stated in the listing of dependent claims.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The drawings (figures) illustrate a lifting tool according to the invention in a first version where the lifting tool is oriented within the inner diameter of the pipe length to be lifted (Internal Running Elevator, IRE), a second version where the lifting tool includes an internal running nipple (Internal Running Nipple Thread Elevator, INTRE) and a third version where the lifting tool is external running (External Running Elevator, ERE).

Figure 4a-b to figure 12a-b, where the method for lifting and joining of a pipe length and pipe string are illustrated, show the IRE and INTRE configurations of the lifting tool. The method can be illustrated with similar figures for the ERE configuration of the lifting tool.

Fig. 1a - is a schematic partial section view of the lifting tool according to the

invention, here shown in the internal running configuration (IRE)

Fig. 1b - is a schematic partial section view of a part of fig. 1a which shows the details of a central piston rod and hydraulic passages for the lifting tool.

Fig. 2a-b - is a schematic partial section view of another configuration of the lifting tool according to the invention, here shown in a configuration where the lifting tool encompasses a lifting nipple which is threaded into the end of a pipe length to be lifted (INTRE). Fig. 2a shows a lifting tool in the deactivated condition, ready to grip the end of a pipe length, and fig. 2b shows a lifting tool in the activated condition.

Fig. 3a-c - is a schematic section view of another configuration of a lifting tool according to the invention, here shown in a configuration where the lifting tool has a chuck (wedge) mechanism which grips the pipe length end on the outside diameter. Fig. 3a shows the lifting tool in the deactivated condition ready to grip the end of a threaded pipe length, fig. 3b shows the lifting tool in the activated condition.

Fig. 4a-b - is a schematic partial section view of a lifting tool according to the invention, where the lifting tool positions of engagement (near horizontal) and vertical are shown.

Fig. 5a-b - is a schematic partial section view showing the lifting tool in the deactivated condition, and a pipe length which is to be joined with another section or string, where the section to be joined is positioned in a tube feeding machine (TFM) and ready for engagement of the lifting tool.

Fig. 6a-b - is a schematic partial section which illustrates a lifting tool ready for engagement with the end of a pipe length.

Fig. 7a-b - is a schematic partial section view of the lifting tool activated with the end

of a pipe length, achieved by moving the pipe length forward in the subhorizontal position and into the end of the lifting tool.

- Fig. 8a-b - is a schematic partial section view of the lifting tool in the activated condition with a magnified partial section view of the lifting tool.
- Fig. 9a-b - is a schematic partial section view of the lifting tool lifting the end of the pipe length such that the opposite end slides toward another section or string (2).
- Fig. 10a-b - is a schematic partial section view where the lifting tool has lifted the pipe length to an almost vertical position where it can be made ready for joining with the other section or string (2).
- Fig. 11a-b - is a schematic partial section view showing how the first pipe length is joined with the other section with the help of the lifting tool according to the invention.
- Fig. 12a-b - is a schematic partial section view which shows the pipe length in the lowered position held by a Power Slip in the drill floor. The lifting tool can then be disengaged from the pipe length, and positioned to receive the next pipe length from the pipe handling machine.
- Fig. 13 - is a schematic view of a top-plate-unit according to the invention embodiment of lifting tool with lifting nipple.

- Fig. 14 - is a schematic section view of one possible configuration of the piston rod, where the lifting tool encompasses an internal running lifting nipple. The piston rod in this configuration has hydraulic oil passages connecting the nipple rotation system to the lifting tool hydraulic system, a passage for drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluids, and a passage for venting of air during the fluid circulation process.
- Fig. 15 - shows an installed and removed nipple of known art on the end of a threaded pipe length, and a primitive chain and hook system for grasping and lifting of the nipple.
- Fig. 16 - illustrates a lifting clamp of known art, placed near the upper end of a pipe length, where the pipe length is equipped with a protective nipple on the top and a coupling on the bottom, where the coupling on the bottom is removed and the nipple on the top of the standing pipe length in the drill floor is removed prior to lowering.
- Fig. 17 - shows how a pipe length is held in position with the help of a clamp of known art and how the pipe length and string are screwed together with the help of power tongs.

The invention will now be described with reference to the attached drawings listed above.

Detailed description of the invention, with preferred embodiments.

Lifting Tool with Internal Running Lifting Nipple (INTRE)

Fig. ____ shows a schematic partial section view of a configuration of the lifting tool according to the invention, here shown in a configuration where the lifting tool encompasses a lifting nipple which is screwed into the end of a pipe length to be lifted (INTRE). Fig. 2a shows the lifting tool in the inactive / deactivated condition, ready to connect to the threaded end of a pipe length, and fig. 2b shows the lifting tool in the activated condition.

The lifting tool can manipulate and lift oil & gas well casing strings (2) and sections (3,4) during connecting and installation or extraction and removal of casing or conductor, casing, risers, drill strings, or other tubular goods, in a well (160) or well bore (160). The lifting tool consists of a lifting part (20) with a coaxial piston rod (47), a mounting interface part (5) for connection to a top drive (60) providing lifting force, or derrick crane (60), and a hydraulic system (40) which is designed to hold the lifting part (20) fixed to either the inner or outer diameter of the end of the pipe length (3).

The novel aspects of this lifting tool are the lifting nipple (32) with a coaxial multi-passage tubular lifting nipple axel (36), a lifting nipple cone (37), and a lifting nipple flange (33), which is positioned between the lifting nipple axel (36) and the lifting nipple cone (37) and designed to transfer load to the lifting tool. The lifting nipple (32) is situated concentrically about the piston rod (47) and arranged for movement along the piston rod (47). Furthermore the lifting nipple (32) is arranged to carry all or part of the weight of the pipe length (3,4) or the resulting joined pipe string (2).

The lifting nipple (32) entering cone or lifting nipple cone (37) is equipped with external helical threads (34) such that it can be threaded in or out of the end of the pipe length (3,4).

The lifting part (20) in a preferred embodiment can be arranged for rotation about the piston rod (47) axis, such that the lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) is capable of a controlled threading of the pipe length (3,4) into a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2), and where the lifting part (20) after the pipe length (3,4) joining with the pipe-string (2) is designed to hold the completed pipe length-sting (2) total weight.

An additional advantage provided by the lifting tool according to the invention is that the lifting part (20) can be rotated about a horizontal axis and configured for connection to a horizontal or nearly horizontal pipe length (3,4). The rotational movement of the lifting tools lifting part can be achieved by fixing the lifting tool in a rotary bearing in the lifting device (70), which engages the piston rod (47), preferably in a recess or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod (47). A tilting arm (10) can facilitate rotation of the lifting part (20). The tilting arm (10) in one embodiment has one end (10a) arranged concentrically around the piston rod (47), and the other end (10b) which is connected to a telescoping hydraulic lifting cylinder (61) mounted on the top drive (60), preferably with a chain or other suitable connection.

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can preferably include a locking mechanism, where locking slots (5a) are oriented concentrically around and connect to the piston rod (47), where the tilting arm (10) is movable under pressure, preferably with a spring loaded joint (10a) in the tilting arm (10), and where the movable tilting arm (10,10a) is arranged for movement from an initial unlocked position passively engaging upon rotation of the lifting part (20) in one of the locking slots in the slotted flange (5a) to a locked position, preventing rotation of the entire lifting tool.

The spring loaded joint (10a) is arranged for unlocking the tilting arm (10) upon retraction of the spring loaded joint (10a) from a position where the lifting tool lifting part (20) has moved from an initial position and returned to the initial position.

An additional advantage provided by a lifting tool according to the invention is that circulation of drilling fluids, cement or other fluids to the bore hole or well (160), can be achieved via the lifting tool. Drilling fluid can for example be supplied via a flexible hose (7) at the lifting tools support anchor (5) and via the piston rod (47) within the lifting tool lifting part (20). The lifting tool lifting part (20) can for this purpose encompass a connector (6) which is attached to the flexible hose (7), preferably a high pressure hose (7) with the help of a union (7a) and a bolted goose neck connection (8), preferably with a swivel, for transfer of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid to the piston rod (47) in the lifting part (20), connected to a manifold or adapter (9) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid form the top drive (160).

Figure 14 shows a section view of one embodiment of the piston rod (47) in the lifting tool, where the piston rod encompasses an axial cylindrical passage (147) designed for flowing drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid and another axial cylindrical passage (148) for venting of air during the application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the lifting tool lifting part (20) encompasses an additional housing (16) with a top plate unit (17) or top plate (21). This housing (16) is arranged with a main lifting shoulder (18) and a bottom plate (19). The top plate unit is shown in figure 13, and can in one possible embodiment include at least one, and preferably two circular plates (17a,b), each with a center hole, with one or more web sections (17c) arranged to stiffen the top plate unit (17) and arranged principally normal to and between the top plates (17a,b), and where the web sections (17c) are attached to the top plates

(17a,b) by welding, a mounting plate (149) arranged on the outside of the upper top plate (17a), and a self-lubricating bushing (21a) arranged between a lifting flange (48) on the piston rod(47) and the other top plate (17b). The lifting flange (48) is among others arranged to transfer load from the lifting tool piston rod (47) to the lifting tool lifting part (20).

To rotate the lifting nipple (32), the lifting tool lifting part (20) can include a nipple rotation system (90), which is arranged for screwing the lifting nipples' (32) nipple cone (37) in and out of the threaded end of a pipe length (3,4), which is to be lifted or loosened. The nipple rotation system (90) can include one or more hydraulic motors (91), each equipped with a gear sprocket (93) mounted on a gear sprocket axle (94).

The lifting nipples' (32) lifting nipple axle (36) can also be arranged with external splines (36a) and engaged by one or more gear sprockets (93) of the nipple rotation system (90) to provide rotation.

The top plate unit (17) can include a cylinder (17d), preferably with a rotary hydraulic port coupling (17e), for inlet (95), outlet (96) and case drain (97) for hydraulic oil from the nipple rotation system (90), where the cylinder (17d) is arranged concentric to the piston rod (47) and radially centered in the end plates (17a,b). The lifting part (20) can also include a cylindrically formed coaxial bearing cylinder (22) with a top plate (22a) and a steering / stop plate (22b), where the coaxial bearing cylinder (22) is arranged to guide the lifting nipple (32) into the correct position for screwing into the pipe length (3,4). The main lifting shoulder (18) on the lifting tool housing (16) is preferably arranged to rest against the steering / stop plate (22b) when the lifting tool is activated, and where the steering / stop plate (22b is arranged to rest against the lifting nipple flange (33) when the lifting nipple (32) is screwed in to the threaded end of the pipe length (3,4).

The nipple rotation system (90) can be attached to the coaxial bearing cylinder (22) with the use of one or more attachment brackets (92).

For centering of the lifting tool in the pipe length (3,4), the lifting tool lifting part (20) can also include a coaxial guide tube (38), which is arranged concentric to the piston rod (47). The lifting nipple (32) then can be arranged concentric to the coaxial guide tube (38) and the lifting nipple is then arranged to move along the coaxial guide tube (38) during the in and out screwing of the pipe length (3,4). There can be arranged external threads (38a) on the coaxial guide tube (38) to engage with the internal threads (35) on the lifting nipple (32).

The coaxial guide tube (38) can be attached to a spring compensation system (39) to accommodate tension forces between the lifting nipple cone (37) external threads (34) and the internal threads (3a) in the end of the pipe length (3,4), and between the lifting nipple (32) internal threads (34) and the external threads (38a) on the coaxial guide tube (38). The spring system (39) can for example consist of two or more helical springs (39) or a spring flange (38).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can also encompass an entry cone or expanding packing (142) (mud packer), preferably consisting of an elastomer element (140), arranged concentrically about the piston rod (47), configured for entry into the end of a pipe length (3,4) and to expand against the internal diameter of the pipe length (3,4) upon activation of the lifting tool. The entry cone (140) can be attached to the piston rod with the use of a bolted connection (143,144) or another appropriate attachment method. The lifting part can also include an entry cone (141) with a pliable support ring (146), where the entry cone (141) is configured to enclose the end of the pipe length (3,4) or pipe-string (2,3,4), contact and clamp the outside diameter of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4).

The lifting tool hydraulic system (40) is preferably a double acting hydraulic cylinder mechanism consisting of a hydraulic cylinder (42) with a cylinder base (44) and cylinder head (41) and a piston (43) arranged concentric and attached to the axial piston rod (47).

Activation of the lifting tool can be accomplished by supplying pressurised hydraulic oil via a preferably radial inlet (50) in connection with the anchor part (5) and via a primarily vertical hydraulic passage (51) for hydraulic oil through the piston rod (47) and with a radial outlet for the hydraulic oil from the piston rod (47) under the piston (43) to activate the piston (43) upwards. Similarly, deactivation is achieved when pressurised hydraulic oil is supplied from the hydraulic cylinder (42) upper part over the piston (43) to drive the internal clamp rings (29) downwards such that the outer clamp segments (24) with friction coating (27) are retracted from and release their grip on the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4).

The hydraulic system can also include a supply passage (51) for hydraulic oil to one side of the hydraulic piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42), and an outlet passage (52) for hydraulic oil to the other side of the piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42), where the inlet passage (51) and the outlet passage (52) run through the piston rod (47) from the manifold (9).

The hydraulic cylinder (42) with the cylinder base (44) is preferably connected to one side of the bearing cylinder (22) top plate (22a), and where the spring system (38) with the coaxial guide tube (37) is connected to the bearing cylinder (22) top plate (22a) on the opposite side of the hydraulic cylinder (43) and cylinder base (44).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) includes a clamp system which is arranged to grip a pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) which is to be lifted, and where the clamp system consists of at least one set of opposing outer clamping ring segments (24) and inner clamp ring segments (29), preferably with a sealing segment or seal ring (29a) arranged on one side of the inner clamping segment (29), which seal against the outer diameter of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4), and where the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) inner diameter is engaged by the entry cone (140).

There can be arranged an indicator or sensor system as a part of the lifting tool lifting part (20). The lifting part (20) can for example include one or more independent sensors (15),

preferably spring loaded pressure sensors, for determination of the lifting nipple (32) position with reference to the end of the pipe length (3,4), and where each sensor (15) is connected to a limit switch (14).

The outer housing (16) can also include one or more inspection ports. This can be an advantage both for normal inspection and in the event of a mechanical failure in the nipple rotation system (90) or the lifting nipple (32) has become stuck or jammed. Should the lifting nipple become stuck a manual release system can be used. This system encompasses one or more lugs or slots on the lifting nipple flange (33), for manual manipulation with the use of pry bars or levers.

Internal Running Lifting Tool (IRE)

Fig. 1a is a schematic partial section of a version of a lifting tool according to the invention, here shown as a lifting tool with internal running lifting part (IRE). Fig. 1b is a magnified schematic section view of fig. 1a, which shows details of a central piston rod (47) and a part of the hydraulic system (40) of the lifting tool.

The lifting tool can manipulate and lift oil & gas well casing strings (2) and sections (3,4) during connecting and installation or extraction and removal of casing or conductor, risers, drill strings, or other tubular goods, in a well (160) or bore hole (160). The lifting tool consists of a lifting part (20) with a coaxial piston rod (47), a mounting interface part (5) for connection to a top drive (60) providing lifting force, or derrick crane (60), and a hydraulic system (40) which is designed to hold the lifting part (20) fixed to the inner diameter of the end of the pipe length (3).

The novelty of this lifting tool is that the lifting tool lifting part (20) includes a clamping system with internal clamping segments or clamping rings (29) attached to the piston rod (47), where the internal clamping segments or clamping rings (29) are configured

to move in an axial direction inwards under the outer clamping segments (24) and thus press the outer clamping segments (24) radially outward, where the outer clamping segments are equipped with radially oriented friction surface (27) to grip the inner diameter of the pipe length (2), where the outer clamping segments (24) are pressed directly or indirectly by a top plate (21) which a hydraulic cylinder (42) connected to the top plate (21), and where the hydraulic cylinder (42) piston (43) is fixed to the piston rod (47) which itself drives the inner clamping rings (29) upwards in relation to the outer clamping segments (24) and thus causing the friction surface (27) to expand outwards and grip the inner diameter of the casing section (2).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) in the preferred embodiment is configured for rotation about the axial piston rod (47), such that the lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) is configured for a controlled threading of the pipe length (3) onto a standing pipe-string (2), and where the lifting part (20) is configured for carrying part or all of the weight of the standing pipe-string (2).

The lifting part (20) inner clamping rings (29) can be attached to the piston rod (47) via a bearing cylinder (22), which is attached to a coaxial base plate (30), which in turn is fixed to the piston rod (47) with an adapter (48) and locked in place with a hex nut (143,144).

The lifting part (20) outer clamping segments (24) and inner clamping rings (29) are preferably arranged in pairs in several levels between the base plate (30) and top plate (21). The outer clamping segments (24) can also be separated axially by spacing rings (26).

The lifting tool hydraulic system (40) is preferably a double acting hydraulic cylinder mechanism consisting of a hydraulic cylinder (42) with a cylinder base (44) and cylinder head (41) and a piston (43) arranged concentric and attached to the axial piston rod (47).

Activation of the lifting tool can be accomplished by supplying pressurised hydraulic oil via a preferably radial inlet (50) in connection with the anchor part (5) and via a primarily

vertical hydraulic passage (51) for hydraulic oil through the piston rod (47) and with a radial outlet for the hydraulic oil from the piston rod (47) under the piston (43) to activate the piston (43) upwards.

Deactivation of the lifting tool is achieved when pressurised hydraulic oil is supplied from the hydraulic cylinder (42) upper part over the piston (43) to drive the internal clamp rings (29) downwards such that the outer clamp segments (24) with friction coating (27) are retracted from and release their grip on the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4).

The lifting part (20) is preferably capable of rotation about a horizontal axis and configured for grasping a horizontal or near horizontal laying pipe length (3,4).

An additional advantage provided by a lifting tool according to the invention is that circulation of drilling fluids, cement or other fluids to the bore hole or well (160), can be achieved via the lifting tool. The lifting tool can be configured for circulation of drilling fluids via a flexible hose (7) connected to the lifting tool support (5) and via the piston rod (47) in the lifting tool lifting part (20).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can for this purpose encompass a connector (6) which is attached to the flexible hose (7), preferably a high pressure hose (7) with the help of a union (7a) and a bolted goose neck connection (8), preferably with a swivel, for transfer of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid to the piston rod (47) in the lifting part (20), connected to a manifold or adapter (9) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid form the top drive (60).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can be hung free to rotate from the elevator device (70) from the piston rod (47), preferably via a shoulder or recess on the piston rod (47).

A tilting arm (10) can facilitate rotation of the lifting part (20). The tilting arm (10) in one embodiment has one end (10a) arranged concentrically around the piston rod (47), and the

other end (10b) which is connected to a telescoping hydraulic lifting cylinder (61) mounted on the top drive (60), preferably with a chain or other suitable connection.

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can preferably include a locking mechanism, where locking slots (5a) are oriented concentrically around and connect to the piston rod (47), where the tilting arm (10) is movable under pressure, preferably with a spring loaded joint (10a) in the tilting arm (10), and where the movable tilting arm (10,10a) is arranged for movement from an initial unlocked position passively engaging upon rotation of the lifting part (20) in one of the locking slots in the slotted flange (5a) to a locked position, preventing rotation of the entire lifting tool. The spring loaded joint (10a) is arranged for unlocking the tilting arm (10) upon retraction of the spring loaded joint (10a) from a position where the lifting tool lifting part (20) has moved from an initial position and returned to the initial position.

The lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) encompasses an entry cone or expanding packing (140) (mud packer), preferably an elastomer packing (140), arranged concentric to the piston rod (47), arranged for entering the end of a pipe length (3,4) and to expand against the pipe length (3,4) inner diameter upon activation of the lifting tool, and where the entry cone (140) is fixed to the piston rod via a bolted connection (143,144).

The piston rod (47) can in one embodiment (see figure 14) encompass a passage for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix, and another passage (148) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix.

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can also be configured for one or more independent sensors (15), preferably spring loaded pressure sensors, for determination of the entry cone (140) position with reference to the end of the pipe length (3,4), and where each sensor (15) is connected to a limit switch (14).

External Running Lifting Tool (ERE)

Figure 3a-b are schematic views of another embodiment of a lifting tool according to the invention, here shown in a configuration where the lifting tool encompasses a clamping system which grips the outside diameter of one end of a pipe length or pipe-string. Figure 3a shows a lifting tool in the inactive or deactivated condition, ready to grip the top of a threaded pipe length, fig. 3b shows the lifting tool in the activated or engaged condition.

The lifting tool can manipulate and lift oil & gas well casing strings (2) and sections (3,4) during connecting and installation or extraction and removal of casing or conductor, risers, drill strings, or other tubular goods, in a well (160) or bore hole (160). The lifting tool consists of a lifting part (20) with a coaxial piston rod (47), a mounting interface part (5) for connection to a top drive (60) providing lifting force, or derrick crane (60), and a hydraulic system (40) which is designed to hold the lifting part (20) fixed to the outer diameter of the end of the pipe length (3).

The novelty of this lifting tool is that the lifting tool lifting part (20) includes a clamping system with one or more pairs of internal clamping segments or clamping rings (29) and outer clamping segments (29), where the lifting part (20) with the clamping system is configured to grip the outer diameter of the end of a pipe length (3,4) below the threaded section of the pipe length (3,4), and where the clamping system is configured to be self locking such that the pipe length (3,4) own weight will increase the clamping force and thus prevent any loss of grip on the pipe length (3,4) in the event of hydraulic system failure.

The lifting part (20) is preferably capable of rotation about a horizontal axis and configured for grasping a horizontal or near horizontal laying pipe length (3,4); and where the lifting tool lifting part (20) in the preferred embodiment is configured for rotation about the axial piston rod (47), such that the lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) is configured for a controlled threading of the pipe length (3) onto a standing pipe-string (2), and where the

lifting part (20) is configured for carrying part or all of the weight of the standing pipe-string (2).

One of the many advantages provided by a lifting tool according to the invention is that circulation of drilling fluids, cement or other fluids to the bore hole or well (160), can be achieved via the lifting tool. The lifting tool can be configured for circulation of drilling fluids via a flexible hose (7) connected to the lifting tool support (5) and via the piston rod (47) in the lifting tool lifting part (20).

The piston rod (47) can encompass a lifting flange (48) configured to transfer load forces from the lifting tool piston rod (47) to the lifting tool lifting part (20). The piston rod (47) can also include a passage to accommodate the addition of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix and another passage for venting of air during the addition of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix.

The lifting part (20) can encompass a connector (6) which is attached to a high pressure hose (7) with a union (7a), for the addition of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from the top drive (60); and a bolted goose neck connection (8), preferably with a swivel, for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix to the piston rod (47) in the lifting part (20), connected to a manifold or adapter (9) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from the top drive (60).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) is hung free to rotate from the elevator device (70) from the piston rod (47), preferably via a shoulder or recess (13) on the piston rod (47).

A tilting arm (10) can facilitate rotation of the lifting part (20). The tilting arm (10) in one embodiment has one end (10a) arranged concentrically around the piston rod (47), and the other end (10b) which is connected to a telescoping hydraulic lifting cylinder (61) mounted on the top drive (60), preferably with a chain or other suitable connection.

For gripping the pipe length (3,4) the lifting part (20) can encompass an entry cone (141) with a compliant support ring (146), where the entry cone (141) is configured to envelope an end of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) and clamp against the outside diameter of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4).

The lifting tool hydraulic system (40) is preferably a double acting hydraulic cylinder mechanism consisting of a hydraulic cylinder (42) with a cylinder base (44) and cylinder head (41) and a piston (43) arranged concentric and attached to the axial piston rod (47).

Activation of the lifting tool can be accomplished by supplying pressurised hydraulic oil via a preferably radial inlet (50) in connection with the anchor part (5) and via a primarily vertical hydraulic passage (51) for hydraulic oil through the piston rod (47) and with a radial outlet for the hydraulic oil from the piston rod (47) under the piston (43) to activate the piston (43) upwards.

Deactivation of the lifting tool is achieved when pressurised hydraulic oil is supplied from the hydraulic cylinder (42) upper part over the piston (43) to drive the internal clamp rings (29) downwards such that the outer clamp segments (24) with friction coating (27) are retracted from and release their grip on the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4).

The lifting tool hydraulic system (40) can also include a supply passage (51) for hydraulic oil to one side of the hydraulic piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42), and an outlet passage (52) for hydraulic oil to the other side of the piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42), where the inlet passage (51) and the outlet passage (52) run through the piston rod (47) from the manifold (9).

There can be arranged an indicator or sensor system as a part of the lifting tool lifting part (20). The lifting part (20) can for example include one or more independent sensors (15), preferably spring loaded pressure sensors, for determination of the lifting nipple (32) position

with reference to the end of the pipe length (3,4), and where each sensor (15) is connected to a limit switch (14).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can preferably include a locking mechanism, where locking slots (5a) are oriented concentrically around and connect to the piston rod (47), where the tilting arm (10) is movable under pressure, preferably with a spring loaded joint (10a) in the tilting arm (10), and where the movable tilting arm (10,10a) is arranged for movement from an initial unlocked position passively engaging upon rotation of the lifting part (20) in one of the locking slots in the slotted flange (5a) to a locked position, preventing rotation of the entire lifting tool. The spring loaded joint (10a) is arranged for unlocking the tilting arm (10) upon retraction of the spring loaded joint (10a) from a position where the lifting tool lifting part (20) has moved from an initial position and returned to the initial position.

The lifting tool preferred embodiment comprises:

- a lifting part (20) which encompasses a coaxial piston rod (47), and a support part (5) for attachment to and receive lifting power from a top drive or derrick crane (60)
- a hydraulic system (40) which is configured to lock the lifting part (20) to the outer diameter of the end of a pipe length (3,4), where the hydraulic system (40) with a hydraulic piston (43) connected to the piston rod (47) and arranged in a hydraulic cylinder (42)
- a clamping system I the lifting tool lifting part (20) with one or more pairs of inner (24) and outer clamping segments (29), where the lifting part (20) with clamping system is configured to grasp the end of a pipe length (3,4)
- an outer housing (16) with a top plate (21), and where the outer housing (16) encompasses a main lifting shoulder (18) and base plate (19) with a central opening for receiving a pipe length (2,3,4) to be grasped

- a bearing cylinder (22) with a guide or stop plate (22b), a bearing cylinder base (22d) with central opening, a center plate (22e) and an internal bearing cylinder (22f); where the pressure on the piston (43) upon application of hydraulic pressure pushes the piston (43) and the piston rod (47) and the outer housing (16) upwards together with the outer housing base plate (19) and the outer clamping segments (24), such that the bearing cylinder (22) and the stop plate (22b) with the inner clamping segments (29) are pushed downwards in relation to the outer clamping segments (24) with the result that the inner clamping segments (29) are forced inwards to clamp against the pipe length (3,4) outer diameter.

The outer housing (16) can also include a top plate unit (17), for example as described earlier for the INTRE and IRE. The outer housing top plate unit (17) can include at least one and preferably two plates (17a,b), each with a central opening; one or more web sections (17c) configured for stiffening of the top plate unit (17) and oriented primarily normal to the and between the top plates (17a,b), and where the web sections (17c) are attached to the top plates (17a,b) preferably with a welded connection; a mounting plate (149) arranged on the outside of one of the plates (17a); and a self lubricating bushing arranged between a lifting flange (48) on the piston rod (47) and the other top plate (17b).

A major advantage of this embodiment is that the clamping system is self-locking and will develop increased locking force as the weight carried by the lifting tool increases (weight energised locking).

Lifting System

Figures 4a-b to 12a-b illustrates how a lifting system according to the invention can function.

The lifting system can lift or lower pipe length (3,4) and a pipe-string (2), during joining and lowering or lifting and disassembling of conductor, casing, riser, drill string or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160). The lifting system consists of a lifting tool with a lifting part (20) and a support part (5) connected to an elevator device (70) which is mounted in a top drive (60) and where the lifting part (20) shall work in conjunction with a power slip (150) which is configured to receive and hold a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2);

The novelty of the lifting system is described as follows:

- the lifting tool lifting part (20) is configured for easy installation and removal from an elevator device (70);
- the elevator device is configured to orient the lifting part (20) such that the lifting tool can engage the end of a pipe length (3,4) and be activated;
- the elevator device (70) and the lifting tool upon the application of lifting force and activation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) is configured to lift the lifting tool lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) for joining with or mounting on the pipe-string (2) below; and
- the lifting tool and lifting tool support part (5) are configured for application or circulation of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix to the bore hole or well (160).

The lifting tool lifting part (20) can be configured for replaceable / removable use in the elevator device (70), preferably in an upper section or lifting shoulder (13) of the piston rod (47). The lifting tool lifting part (20) can also be configured for about a horizontal or near horizontal axis, in the elevator device (70), to engage an end of a horizontal or near horizontal pipe length (3,4), and to grip the inner or outer diameter of the end of the pipe length (3,4).

The lifting system in another embodiment of the invention encompasses a rotation apparatus (power tongs) (80) which is configured for rotation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) about the piston rod (47), for a controlled threading of the pipe length (3,4) together with the standing pipe-string (2), and where the lifting tool lifting part (20) is configured to carry all or part of the resulting load of the resulting pipe length (2).

The rotation apparatus (80) can for example include a clamping device, or a pair of power tongs (81) which are configured to hold fixed a pipe length or pipe-string (2), and a torque device or second set of power tongs (82) configured for rotation of the lifting part (20) and pipe length (3,4) for joining with the pipe-string with the help of a torque or rotation motor.

The lifting tool can be configured to receive lifting force from a top drive (60) for activation of the lifting tool, such that the lifting tool after activation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) against the pipe length (3,4) inner or outer diameter, is capable of lifting the pipe length (3,4) or pipe-string (2,3,4), and directed to a rotary table (161) for joining of the pipe length (3,4) with the pipe-string (2) below.

A pipe handling machine (tube feeding machine) can be arranged for placing pipe length (3,4) in position for engagement by the lifting tool lifting part (20).

The lifting system can also include a manipulator arm (170) for placing the far end of a pipe length (3,4) from the pipe handling machine (180) to the vertical position over the standing pipe-string (2) below.

The elevator device can be of any type. One example us such an elevator device appropriate for use is the BX-Elevator, manufactured by VarcoBJ, USA, which has replaceable adapters for differing pipe length diameters, however other types of elevators can be used. On such elevator device (70) can include and elevator (71),

where the elevator (71) is mounted capable of rotation in two link arms (75), where a hydraulic motor is used for rotation of the elevator (71) about the axis defined by the link arm supports, and which is held by a clamping mechanism, preferably a parallel link (76), such that the link arms do not rotate in relation to each other. The elevator (71) encompasses adapters (74) for varying pipe length diameters and the elevator itself is available in different sizes.

Method for Lifting of Pipe lengths for joining to a Pipe string

The method for lifting of pipe length (3,4) for jointing to a pipe-string (2), as well as conductor, casing, risers, or similar for use in a bore hole or well (160) with the use of a lifting system and lifting tool is illustrated in fig. 4a-b to 12a-b. The method includes the following steps:

- the pipe length (3,4) into position with the lifting tool lifting part (20)
- the lifting tool lifting part (20) engages one end of the pipe length (3,4) which will be the upper end of the pipe length (3,4)
- the lifting part is activated by a hydraulic system (40) to clamp the inner or outer diameter of the pipe length (3,4)
- a top drive or derrick crane (60) lifts the lifting tool with the pipe length (3,4) to the vertical or near vertical position over a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2)
- the lower end of the now vertical or near vertical pipe length (3,4) is joined with the standing pipe-string (2) below to create a lengthened pipe-string (2)
- the resulting pipe-string (2) is lowered and held in position by a power slip (150) which is configured to hold the pipe-string (2) in the drilling deck
- the resulting pipe-string (2) is released from the power slip (150) such that it hangs from the top drive (60) and lifting tool

- the resulting pipe-string (2) is lowered and again held in place by the power slip (150); and
- the lifting tool is released from the end of the resulting pipe-string (2)

The method can also include the following step:

- the lifting tool support part (5) is placed or held in the elevator device (70), preferably it an upper part or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod, prior to the pipe length (3,4) being positioned for engagement by the lifting tool

The method can also include the following step:

- the lifting tool lifting part (2) is rotated about a predominantly horizontal axis in a elevator device (70), with the help of a tilting arm (10) which in one end is fixed to the lifting tool support part (5) and in the other end to a lifting cylinder (61) if the top drive (60), from a predominantly vertical initial position to a position ready for engagement with the horizontal or near horizontal pipe length (3).
- the pipe length (3) is moved forward and into the lifting tool lifting part with the help of a tube feeding machine (TFM) for activation of the lifting tool lifting part (20)

The method can also include the following step:

- as the pipe length (3) is moved forward on the tube feeding machine (TFM), the other end of the pipe length (3) is moved to the standing pipe-string (2) by a manipulator arm (170); and
- the lifting tool and pipe length (3) are lowered to the standing pipe-string (2) for joining with the standing pipe-string (2)

The method can also include the following step:

- joining of the pipe length (3) and the pipe-string (2) is accomplished by threading of the opposite end of the pipe length (3) into the threaded end of the pipe-string (2)

through rotation of the lifting tool lifting part in the upper end of the pipe length (3) about the lifting tool main axis with the use of a rotation system (80).

The method can also include the following step:

- upon activation of the lifting tool a clamping system (24,29) in the lifting tool lifting part (20) clamps against one or both of the pipe length (3,4) inner and outer diameters with the use of a piston hydraulic system (40).

The method can also include the following step:

- upon activation of the lifting tool an entry cone or expanding packing (140) is pressed against the pipe length (3,4) inner diameter.

The method can also include the following step:

- threading of a lifting nipple (32) into the threaded end of the upper or next upper end of the pipe length (3,4), preferably with the help of a nipple rotation system (90).

The method can also include the following step:

- upon release of the lifting tool from the pipe-string (2), the clamping system (24,29) in the lifting tool lifting part (20) is released from the pipe-string (2) end with the help of the hydraulic system (40), such that the lifting tool can be moved to a start position.

The method can also include the following step:

- upon release of the lifting tool from the pipe-string (2), the lifting nipple (32) is screwed out of the threaded end section of the pipe-string (2), preferably with the help of the nipple rotation system (90), or manually with the help of a manual release system for the lifting nipple, and thereafter release the clamping system (24,29) from the pipe-string (2) end.

The method can also include the following step:

- progress in the feeding of the pipe length (3) is monitored by an indicator system, preferably with one or more independent sensors (14,15) each connected to a limit

switch, which ensure that the feeding of the pipe length is stopped at the appropriate moment to avoid damage to the end of the pipe length, and which indicates centering of the lifting tool lifting part (20) in the end of the pipe length (3,4) to be grasped by the lifting tool.

Example of method for use of a lifting system according to the invention, where the lifting tool encompasses an internal running lifting nipple

The following describes an example of the method for joining of pipe length (3,4) and pipe-string (2).

The lifting tool hangs from an elevator and is swung / tilted up with the help of a lifting cylinder (61) to the desired angle, such that the angle between the lifting cylinder (61) and the vertical axis of the rotary table (161) matches the angle between the horizontal plane and the central axis of the pipe length (3) laying ready for the tube feeding machine (TFM). Thereafter the pipe length (3) is driven into the lifting tool until the indicator or sensor system (14,15) shows that the pipe length has come into the proper position. Furthermore the lifting tool is activated by a hydraulic system (40). A clamping system with outer clamping segments (24) and inner clamping segments (29,29a) clamp about the pipe length (3) outer diameter with the required force. An internal running entry cone, or elastomer packing or cylinder (140) expands outward against the inner diameter of the pipe length (3) such that the required holding force is generated, and the lifting tool is centered in the pipe length (3). Should the lifting tool fail to be properly centered in the pipe length, there is a risk that the lifting nipple (32) could be subjected to an amount of bending due to its own weight, which can result in damage to the threaded end section of the pipe length. This can result in the requirement that the pipe length must be removed and replaced, which is a time consuming and expansive operation.

The lifting nipple (32) is screwed into the threaded end section of the pipe length with the help of the nipple rotation system 90.

When the lifting tool is engaged into the end of the pipe length (3), there is an automatic locking of the lifting tool to the tilting arm (10) to prevent rotation of the pipe length (3) during the threading in of the lifting nipple (32) while the pipe length lays in the tube feeding machine.

The lifting process begins with the top drive providing lifting force to and lifting the elevator device (70) with the lifting tool and the pipe length (3), simultaneously the tube feeding machine (TFM) drives the pipe length towards the rotaty table or rotary table axis (161). The hydraulic system for the top drive (60) lifting cylinder (61) and elevator device is released. The pipe length is thereafter lifted to the primarily vertical position. A manipulator arm holds and leads the opposite end of the pipe length (3) to be handled in the rotary table (161).

When the lifting tool has lifted the pipe length (3) into the primarily vertical position for joining with the standing pipe-string (2) below held in place by the power slip (150), the connection between the lifting tool and the lifting cylinder (61) is loosened such that the lifting tool lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3) is free to rotate about the primary axis of the lifting tool.

A power tong set (81) is placed on the pipe-string (2) which is held by the power slip or clamping arrangement and holds the pipe-string (2) in the fixed position, to prevent rotation of the pipe length or pipe-string. A second set of power tongs (82) engage the opposite end of the pipe length (3) which is to be screwed into the pipe-string (2) which is held by the power slip or clamping arrangement (150), and begins threading the pipe length (3) onto the pipe-string (2) held by the clamping arrangement or power slip (150).

The resulting pipe-string (2) is lifted such that the power slip can release its grip on the pipe-string (2). Thereafter the resulting pipe-string (2) is lowered to a position where it can again be held in place by the power slip (150).

The lifting tool is released by un-screwing the lifting nipple (32), and subsequently operating the hydraulic piston (43) on the piston rod (47) in the hydraulic cylinder (42) downwards such that the clamping system in the lifting part (20) and the entry cone (141) are released from the pipe-string (2) outer diameter, and the entry cone (140) is disengaged from the pipe-string (2) inner diameter and returns to its original form. The lifting tool can now be lifted to the desired standby position. A new pipe length is fed forward, and the process can start again as needed.

The lifting system with a lifting tool according to the invention has several advantages; it can lift a pipe length (3) for joining with a standing pipe-string (2) below, the lifting tool lifting part (20) can rotate about the piston rod (47), and it is possible to fill or circulate drill fluid via the lifting tool to the bore hole, for example drilling mud, to maintain pressure in the bore hole or well (160). The lifting tool can also be used with varying pipe length dimensions. The lifting nipple in the lifting tool with internal running lifting nipple (32) can be manufactured with varying thread types, while the lifting nipple flange (33) threads are matched to the lifting shoulder on the lifting tool.

List of part number references

- 1 lifting tool
- 2 a second pipe length or pipe string
- 3 the first length of pipe to be lifted and joined with pipe length or pipe string (2)
- 4 a third pipe length to be joined with the first pipe length (3)
- 5 connection piece
- 6 adapter for supply of drilling fluid, drilling mud
- 7 high pressure hose for drilling fluid, drilling mud
- 8 bolted goose neck connection, preferably with swivel
- 9 manifold / adapter for hydraulic fluid and venting of air
- 10 tilting arm for lifting assistance
- 11 compensating joint, for example a spring loaded joint
- 10b locking system for prevention of rotation of lifting part (20) during in-threading of lifting nipple
- 11 internal threads in the end of a pipe length (3,4) or pipe string (2)
- 12 external threads in the other end of a pipe length (3,4)
- 13 recess / lifting shoulder on the piston rod (47)
- 14 limit switch
- 15 indicator or sensor system to verify that the lifting tool has the proper position with respect to the pipe length to be lifted; can be a spring loaded indicator to determine when the lifting nipple is in the correct position for lifting, preferably one or more sensors which are independent of each other where each sensor is connected to a limit switch (14)
- 16 housing for internal running lifting tool with threaded nipple or clamping system, in fixed position

- 17 top plate unit for lifting part (20)
- 17a,b circular disks / plates with central hole
- 17c web stiffeners welded into position between 17a,b to stiffen the top plate unit 17
- 17d cylinder with spindle system for inlet (95), outlet (96) and case drain (97) of hydraulic oil for the nipple rotation system (90)
- 17e spindle system
- 18 main lifting shoulder
- 19 base plate for top plate unit (17)
- 20 lifting part
- 21 top plate of lifting part (20)
- 21a self lubricating bushing positioned between the top plate unit (17), or top plate (21), and lifting flange (48) on the piston rod (47)
- 21b
- 22 bearing cylinder
- 22a top plate for bearing cylinder (22)
- 22b guide or stop plate with lifting flange (22c)
- 22c lifting flange
- 22d bearing cylinder plate with central hole
- 22e central plate
- 22f inner bearing cylinder
- 23 metal inserts
- 24 outer clamping segments or outer clamping rings
- 25 mounting ring for bolts (31a) which hold base plate (30)
- 26 distance pieces / spacing rings
- 27 friction coating

- 28 metal or composite friction inserts
- 29 inner clamping segments or inner clamping ring
- 29a gasket on the inner clamping segments or inner clamping ring
- 30 base plate for lifting part
- 31a bolts which fasten base plate (30)
- 31b bolts which fasten entry cone (140)
- 31c bolts for fixing ring (146)
- 32 lifting nipple
- 33 lifting nipple flange
- 34 external threads on the lifting nipple cone (36)
- 35 internal threads on the lifting nipple
- 36 hollow coaxial lifting nipple axle
- 36a external threads on lifting nipple axle
- 37 lifting nipple cone
- 38 coaxial guide tube
- 38a external threads on the coaxial guide tube (38)
- 38b internal threads on the coaxial guide tube (38)
- 39 spring system, spiral springs or spiral krans
- 40 hydraulic piston
- 41 piston cylinder plate
- 42 hydraulic cylinder
- 43 piston
- 44 piston cylinder base
- 44a base gasket in the hydraulic cylinder (42)
- 45 bolts for fastening of the hydraulic cylinder (42) to the piston cylinder base (44)

- 46a,b first and second o-rings
- 47 piston rod
- 48 lifting flange on piston rod (47)
- 48a spacer
- 49 piston rod hex nut for base plate
- 50 inlet for hydraulic oil
- 51 inlet passage for hydraulic oil to one side of the piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42)
- 52 outlet passage for hydraulic oil from the other side of the piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder
- 53
- 60 torsionally rigid support / derrick crane / drive unit / top drive / drilling machine
- 61 telescopic hydraulic driven lifting cylinder with chain connection to tilting arm (10)
- 62 support arrangement for mud / hydraulic hose
- 64 support for link arms which are capable of rotation about a horizontal axis
- 65 bearing
- 66
- 67
- 68
- 70 elevator device, for example a BX elevator where there is an arrangement of removable adapters for differing pipe diameter, where the adapters can include lifting shoulders. Found on most drill rigs / production ships.
- 71 elevator
- 72 hydraulic motor for rotation of elevator (71)
- 73

- 74 removable adapters for elevator (71)
- 75 link arms, one or more capable of rotation anchored in the elevator (71)
- 76 clamp / parallel link for holding link arms such that they do not rotate with respect to each other
- 80 rotation apparatus
- 81 power tongs / clamping device one or more sets, first to hold lowered pipe string (2)
- 82 power tongs / clamping device one or more sets, second to rotate lifting tool with pipe string (2)
- 83 torque / rotation motor for rotation of lifting part (20) and pipe length (3,4) to be joined with lowered pipe string (2)
- 90 nipple rotation system
- 91 hydraulic motor
- 92 mounting bracket for hydraulic motor
- 93 gear sprocket for rotation of lifting nipple
- 94 axle for gear sprocket (93)
- 95 inlet passage for hydraulic oil to hydraulic motor (91)
- 96 outlet passage for hydraulic oil from hydraulic motor (91)
- 97 case drain passage
- 100
- 110 swing damper
- 120 inspection opening
- 121 lugs for manually loosening lifting nipple (32) for example with the use of a lever / bar, in the event that it is required, for example a fault in the nipple rotation system hydraulic passages.
- 130

- 140 entry cone
- 141 entry guide
- 142 expanding elastomer or rubber seal / mud packer
- 143 fastening bolt for piston rod
- 144 distance pieces / spacer washers for fastening bolt (143)
- 145 seal plate between piston rod (47) and
- 146 backing ring
- 147 passage for drilling fluid, drilling mud
- 148 passage for venting of air
- 149 mounting plate for disk on top of top plate unit
- 150 power slip, clamping system in the drill floor which is configured for holding a pipe length or pipe string(2)
- 151 inner clamping ring in power slip
- 152 outer clamping ring in power slip
- 153 rotary support table
- 154 hydraulic motor which control opening and closing of rotary support table (153)
- 155 doors in the power slip (150)
- 160 bore hole or well
- 161 rørsenter
- 170 manipulator arm
- 180 tube feeding machine

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A lifting tool for handling of a pipe-string (2) and pipe length (3,4) during joining and lowering or lifting and disassembly of conductor, casing, risers, drill strings or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160), where the lifting tool comprising

- a lifting part (20) characterised by a coaxial piston rod (47), and a support part (5) for connection to and receiving lifting force from a top drive (60) or derrick crane (60); and
- a hydraulic system (40) which is configured to grip and hold the lifting part (20) against either or both of the inner, outer diameters of the pipe length (3) end;

Characterised by the lifting tool also comprising a lifting nipple (32) with a hollow coaxial lifting nipple axle (36), a lifting nipple cone (37), and a lifting nipple flange for collar (33) which is arranged between the lifting nipple axle (36) and the lifting nipple cone (37) and configured for transfer of load to the lifting tool,

- where the lifting nipple (32) is arranged concentric to the piston rod (47) and configured for movement along the piston rod (47);
- where the lifting nipple (32) is configured to carry all or part of the weight of the pipe length (3,4) or the resulting pipe-string (2);
- where the lifting nipple cone (37) is equipped with external primarily horizontal grooves or external threads (34) and configured for screwing into and out of the end of a pipe length (3,4).

2. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) is configured for rotation about the piston rod (47) axis, such that the lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) is configured for a controlled in-screwing (joining) of the pipe length (3,4) into a pipe length (3,4) or a standing pipe-string (2) located below, and where the lifting part (20) subsequent to the pipe length (3,4) joining with the pipe-string (2) is configured to carry the resulting pipe-string (2) total combined weight.
3. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) is movable about a horizontal axis and configured for grasping a horizontal or near horizontal positioned pipe length (3,4).
4. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) is configured for circulation of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix via a flexible hose (7) on the lifting tool support part (5) and via the piston rod (47) in the lifting tool lifting part (20).
5. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a coaxial guide tube (38), which is arranged concentric to the piston rod (47).
6. A lifting tool according to claim 5, where the lifting nipple (32) is arranged concentric to the coaxial guide tube (38), and where the lifting nipple (32) is configured for movement along the coaxial guide tube (38) during in-screwing and out-screwing of the pipe length (3,4).

7. A lifting tool according to claims 5 or 6, where the external threads (38a) are arranged on the coaxial guide tube (38) to engage with the internal threads (35) on the lifting nipple.

8. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a housing (16) with a top plate unit (17) or a top plate (21), and where the housing (16) comprises a main lifting shoulder (18) and a base plate (19).

9. A lifting tool according to claim 8, where the top plate unit (17) comprises

- at least one, preferably two disc shaped plates (17a,b), each with a central opening,
- one or more web sections (17c) configured for stiffening the top plate unit (17) and oriented primarily normal to and between the top plates (17a,b), and where the web sections (17c) are fixed to the top plates (17a,b) preferably by a welded connection;
- a mounting plate (149) arranged on the outside of the upper plate (17a); and
- a self lubricating bushing arranged between the lifting collar (48) on the piston rod (47) and the other top plate (17b).

10. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a nipple rotation system (90) configured for in-screwing and out-screwing of the lifting nipple (32) lifting nipple cone (37) in a threaded part of an end of the pipe length (3,4) which shall be lifted or loosened.

11. A lifting tool according to claim 10, where the nipple rotation system (90) comprises one or more hydraulic motors (91), each equipped with a gear sprocket (93) on a gear axle (94).
12. A lifting tool according to claim 10 or 11, where the top plate unit (17) comprises a cylinder (17d) with a spindle system (17e) for inlet (95) and outlet (96) and case drain (97) passages for hydraulic oil to the nipple rotation system (90), where the cylinder (17d) is arranged concentric to the piston rod (47) and axially centered in the top plates (17a,b).
13. A lifting tool according to claim 7 or 8, where the lifting nipple (32) lifting nipple axle (36) is equipped with external vertical grooves (splines) (36a) and configured for engagement by and rotation of one or more gear sprockets (93) in the nipple rotation system (90).
14. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) also comprises
 - an adapter (6) which is connected to a high pressure hose (7) with a swivel (7a), for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from a drive unit or top drive (60),
 - a bolted goose neck connection (8), preferably with a swivel, for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix to the piston rod (47) in the lifting part (20), connected to a manifold or adapter (9) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from the top drive (60).

15. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) is supported free to rotate by an elevator apparatus (70) attached to the piston rod (47), preferably in a recess or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod (47).

16. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a tilting arm (10) with one end (10a) arranged concentric to the piston rod (47), and the other end (10b) is attached to a telescopic hydraulic lifting cylinder (61), preferably with the use of a chain connection or other suitable means of attachment.

17. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) comprises:

- an entry cone or expanding packing / seal / mud packer (140), preferably an elastomer packing (140), arranged concentric to the piston rod (47), configured for placing in the end of the pipe length (3,4) and to expand against the pipe length or pipe-string (3,4) inner diameter upon activation of the lifting tool, where the entry cone (140) is attached to the piston rod (47) with the use of a bolted connection (143,144); and
- an funnel shaped entry guide (141) with a compliant support ring (146), where the entry guide (141) is configured to receive the end of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) and rest against and clamp onto the outer diameter of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4).

18. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the piston rod (47) comprises a hollow fluid passage (147) for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or

fluid mix and a hollow fluid passage (148) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix.

19. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the hydraulic system (40) is a double acting or two way piston cylinder mechanism which comprises a hydraulic cylinder (42) with a piston cylinder base (44), a piston cylinder plate (41) and a hydraulic piston (43) which is arranged concentric to and fix to the axial piston rod (47).

20. A lifting tool according to claim 19, where the hydraulic system (40) also comprises:

- an inlet fluid passage (51) for hydraulic oil to one side of the hydraulic piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42); and
- an outlet fluid passage (52) for hydraulic oil to the other side of the hydraulic piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42);
- where the inlet passage (51) and the outlet passage (52) run through the piston rod (47) from the manifold (9).

21. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting tool lifting part (20) comprises a clamping system which is configured to grasp and hold the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) which shall be lifted, and where the clamping system includes at least one set of opposing outer (24) and inner (29) clamping segments or clamping rings, preferably with a sealing system or sealing ring (29a) positioned on one side of the clamping ring or clamping segment (29) which contacts the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) outer diameter, and where the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) inner diameter is engaged by the entry cone (140).

22. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a coaxial bearing cylinder (22) with a top plate (22a) and a guide or stop plate (22b), where the coaxial bearing cylinder (22) is configured to guide the lifting nipple (32) into the correct position during in-screwing of the pipe length (3,4).
23. A lifting tool according to claim 22, where the main lifting shoulder (18) is configured to be positioned adjacent to the guide or stop plate (22b) when the lifting tool is activated, and where the guide or stop plate (22b) is configured to be positioned adjacent to the lifting nipple flange or collar (33) when the lifting nipple (32) is screwed into the threaded section of one end of the pipe length (3,4).
24. A lifting tool according to claim 22, where the nipple rotation system (90) is attached to the coaxial bearing cylinder (22) with the use of one or more mounting brackets (92).
25. A lifting tool according to claims 5-7, where the coaxial bearing cylinder (38) is connected to a spring system (39) for compensating and equalising the tension forces between the lifting nipple cone (37) external horizontal grooves or threads (34) and the internal horizontal grooves or threads (3a) in one end of the pipe length (3,4), and between the lifting nipple (32) internal horizontal grooves or threads (34) and the external horizontal grooves or threads (38a) on the coaxial bearing cylinder (38).
26. A lifting tool according to claim 24, where the spring system (39) comprises two or more helical springs () or helical collar ().

27. A lifting tool according to claim 25-26, where the hydraulic cylinder (42) with the piston cylinder base (44) is attached to one side of the bearing cylinder (22) top plate (22a), and where the spring system (39) with the coaxial guide tube (37) is attached to the bearing cylinder (22) top plate (22a) on the opposite side of the hydraulic cylinder (43) and piston cylinder base (44).
28. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where there is arranged one or more independent sensors (15) in the lifting tool lifting part (20), preferably spring loaded pressure sensors, to determine the lifting nipple (32) position with respect to the end of the pipe length (3,4), and where each sensor (15) is connected to a limit switch (14).
29. A lifting tool according to claim 8 or 9, where the housing (16) comprises one or more inspection openings.
30. A lifting tool according to the previous claims, where there are arranged one or more lugs on the lifting nipple (32) lifting nipple flange (33), for manual operation / rotation of the lifting nipple (32) preferably with the use of a lever or crow-bar.
31. A lifting tool according to claim 19, where hydraulic oil is supplied by a preferably radial inlet (50) on the support part (5) and via a predominantly vertical passage (51) for hydraulic oil through the piston rod (47) and with a radial outlet for hydraulic oil from the piston rod (47) under the piston (43) to move the piston (43) upwards.

32. A lifting tool according to claim 31, where hydraulic oil is supplied from the hydraulic cylinder (42) upper part above the piston (43) to drive the inner clamping rings (29) downward such that the outer clamping segments (24) with friction surface (27) retract from and release the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4).

33. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the piston rod (47) comprises

- a fluid passage (147) configured for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix, and
- a fluid passage (148) configured for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix.

34. A lifting tool according to claim 1, where the piston rod (47) comprises a lifting collar (48) configured to transfer load from the lifting tool piston rod (47) to the lifting tool lifting part (20).

35. A lifting tool according to claim 16, where the lifting tool lifting part (20)

comprises a locking mechanism for the lifting tool,

- where a slotted hub (5a) is arranged concentric to and attached to the piston rod (47), and where the tilting arm (10) is compliant, preferably with a spring loaded joint (10a) in the tilting arm (10),
- where the compliant tilting arm (10, 10a) is configured for movement from an initial position and passively downwards into one of the slots in the slotted hub (5a) to an operating position, for locking of the lifting tool against rotation of the lifting tool lifting part (20).

36. A lifting tool according to claim 35, where the spring loaded joint (10a) is configured for release of the tilting arm (10) upon retraction of the spring loaded joint (10a) from a position where the lifting tool lifting part (20) has rotated from an initial position and back to the initial position.

37. A lifting tool for handling of a pipe-string (2) and pipe length (3,4) during joining and lowering or raising and disassembling of conductor, casing, risers, drilling strings or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (161), where the lifting tool comprises

- a lifting part (20) which comprises an axial piston rod (47), and a support part (5) for attachment to and receiving lifting force from a drive unit / top drive (60) or derrick crane (60); and
- a hydraulic system (40) which is configured to lock the lifting part (20) against the inner diameter of the pipe length (3) end;

characterised by the lifting tool lifting part (20) also comprising

- a clamping system with inner clamping segments or inner clamping rings (29) attached to the piston rod (47),
 - where the inner clamping segments or clamping rings (29) are configured to move in an axial direction inwards under ramped surfaces of the outer clamping segments (24) and thereby press the outer clamping ring-segments radially outward.
 - where the outer clamping segments are equipped with a radially oriented friction surface (27) to engage the inner diameter of the pipe length (2),
 - where the outer clamping ring-segments (24) are pressed directly or indirectly downwards by a top plate (21) with a hydraulic cylinder (42) connected to the top plate (21), and

- where the cylinder (42) hydraulic piston is attached to the piston rod (47) which in turn drives the inner clamping rings (29) upwards in relation to the outer clamping segments (24) and thereby expands the friction surface (27) outwards to grip the inner diameter of the casing (2).

38. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) is configured for rotation about the piston rod (47), such that the lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) is configured for a controlled in-screwing of the pipe length (3) into a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2), and where the lifting part (20) after the joining of the pipe length (3) with the pipe-string (2) is configured for carrying all or part of the weight of the resulting pipe-string (2).

39. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the inner clamping rings (29) are attached to the piston rod (47) via a coaxial bearing cylinder (22), which itself is attached to a coaxial base plate (39), which in turn is attached to the piston rod (47) with a lower intermediate piece (48) and locked by a hex nut (143,144)

40. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) outer clamping segments (24) and inner clamping rings (29) are arranged in pairs in several levels between the base plate (30) and top plate (21).

41. A lifting tool according to claim 40, where the lifting part (20) outer clamping segments (24) are separated in the axial direction by spacer rings (26).

42. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the hydraulic system (40) is a double acting or two way piston cylinder mechanism which comprises a hydraulic cylinder (42) with a piston cylinder base (44), a piston cylinder plate (41) and a hydraulic piston (43) which is arranged concentric to and fix to the axial piston rod (47).
43. A lifting tool according to claim 42, where hydraulic oil is supplied by a preferably radial inlet (50) on the support part (5) and via a predominantly vertical passage (51) for hydraulic oil through the piston rod (47) and with a radial outlet for hydraulic oil from the piston rod (47) under the piston (43) to move the piston (43) upwards.
44. A lifting tool according to claim 43, where hydraulic oil is supplied from the hydraulic cylinder (42) upper part above the piston (43) to drive the outer clamping rings (24) downward such that the inner clamping segments (29) with packing or packing ring (29a) retract from and release the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4).
45. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) is movable about a horizontal axis and configured for grasping a horizontal or near horizontal positioned pipe length (3,4).
46. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) is configured for circulation of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix via a flexible hose (7) on the lifting tool support part (5) and via the piston rod (47) in the lifting tool lifting part (20).
47. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) also comprises

- an adapter (6) which is connected to a high pressure hose (7) with a swivel (7a), for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from a drive unit or top drive (60),
- a bolted goose neck connection (8), preferably with a swivel, for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix to the piston rod (47) in the lifting part (20), connected to a manifold or adapter (9) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from the top drive (60).

48. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) is supported free to rotate by an elevator apparatus (70) attached to the piston rod (47), preferably in a recess or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod (47).

49. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a tilting arm (10) with one end (10a) arranged concentric to the piston rod (47), and the other end (10b) is attached to a telescopic hydraulic lifting cylinder (61), preferably with the use of a chain connection or other suitable means of attachment.

50. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting part (20) comprises an entry cone or expanding packing / seal / mud packer (140), preferably an elastomer packing (140), arranged concentric to the piston rod (47), configured for placing in the end of the pipe length (3,4) and to expand against the pipe length or pipe-string (3,4) inner diameter upon activation of the lifting tool, where the entry cone (140) is attached to the piston rod (47) with the use of a bolted connection (143,144).

51. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the piston rod (47) comprises
 - a fluid passage (147) configured for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix, and
 - a fluid passage (148) configured for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix.
52. A lifting tool according to claim 37, where the lifting tool lifting part (20) also comprises an indicator system configured for one or more independent sensors (15) in the lifting tool lifting part (20), preferably spring loaded pressure sensors, to determine the entry cone (140) position with respect to the end of the pipe length (3,4), and where each sensor (15) is connected to a limit switch (14).
53. A lifting tool according to claim 49, where the lifting tool lifting part (20) comprises a locking mechanism for the lifting tool,
 - where a slotted hub (5a) is arranged concentric to and attached to the piston rod (47), and where the tilting arm (10) is compliant, preferably with a spring loaded joint (10a) in the tilting arm (10),
 - where the compliant tilting arm (10, 10a) is configured for movement from an initial position and passively downwards into one of the slots in the slotted hub (5a) to an operating position, for locking of the lifting tool against rotation of the lifting tool lifting part (20).
54. A lifting tool according to claim 53, where the spring loaded joint (10a) is configured for release of the tilting arm (10) upon retraction of the spring loaded joint

(10a) from a position where the lifting tool lifting part (20) has rotated from an initial position and back to the initial position.

55. A lifting tool for handling of a pipe-string and pipe length (2,3,4) during joining and lowering or raising and disassembling of conductor in a bore hole, casing, risers, drilling strings or similar where the lifting tool comprises

- a lifting part (20) which comprises an axial piston rod (47), and a support part (5) for attachment to and receiving lifting force from a drive unit / top drive (60) or derrick crane (60); and
- a hydraulic system (40) which is configured to lock the lifting part (20) against the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4) end;

characterised by the lifting tool lifting part comprising

- a clamping system in the lifting tool lifting part (20) with one or more sets of inner clamping segments (29) and outer clamping segments or clamping rings (24), where the lifting part (20) with the clamping system is configured to grasp around the end of the pipe length (3,4) below the threaded section of the end of the pipe length (3,4) and
- where the clamping system is configured to be self locking such that the pipe length (3,4) own weight will act to increase the gripping / locking force ensuring secure gripping / locking in the event of the loss of hydraulic oil pressure.

56. A lifting tool according to claim 55,

- where the lifting part (20) is movable about a horizontal axis and configured for grasping a horizontal or nearly horizontal laying pipe length (3,4); and

- where the lifting part (20) is configured for rotation about the piston rod (47), such that the lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) is configured for a controlled in-screwing of the pipe length (3) into a standing pipe-string (2) below, and where the lifting part (20) after the joining of the pipe length (3) with the pipe-string (2) is configured to carry all or part of the weight of the resulting pipe-string (2).

57. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting part (20) is configured for circulation of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix via a flexible hose (7) on the lifting tool support part (5) and via the piston rod (47) in the lifting tool lifting part (20).

58. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting tool comprises:
-m(6/Ua lifting part (20) which comprises an axial piston rod (47), and a support part (5) for attachment to and receiving lifting force from a drive unit / top drive (60) or derrick crane (60);
- a hydraulic system (40) which is configured to lock the lifting part (20) against the outer diameter of the pipe length (3,4) end, where the hydraulic system (40) is a piston hydraulic system (40) with a hydraulic piston (43) connected to the piston rod (47) and arranged in a hydraulic cylinder (42);
- a clamping system in the lifting tool lifting part (20) with one or more sets of inner clamping segments (29) and outer clamping segments or clamping rings (24), where the lifting part (20) with the clamping system is configured to grasp around the end of the pipe length (3,4)

- an outer housing (16) with a top plate (21), and where the housing (16) comprises a lifting shoulder (18) and a base plate (19) with a central opening such that a pipe length (2,3,4) can be grasped;
- a coaxial bearing cylinder (22) with a guide or stop plate (22b), a bearing cylinder plate (22d) with a central opening, a center plate (22e) and an inner bearing cylinder (22f);

where the pressure under the piston (43) upon application of hydraulic pressure forces the piston (43) with the piston rod (47) and the outer housing (16) upwards together with the outer housing (16) base plate (19) and the outer clamping rings (24), such that the bearing cylinder (22) and the stop plate (22b) with the inner clamping segments (29) is forced downwards with respect to the outer clamping rings (24) with the result that inner clamping segments (29) are forced inwards to engage and grasp the pipe length (3,4) outer diameter.

59. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the piston rod includes a lifting collar (48) configured to transfer load from the lifting tool piston rod (47) to the lifting tool lifting part (20).

60. A lifting tool according to claim 58, where the outer housing (16) includes a top plate unit (17).

61. A lifting tool according to claim 60, where the top plate unit (17) comprises

- at least one, preferably two disc shaped plates (17a,b), each with a central opening,
- one or more web sections (17c) configured for stiffening the top plate unit (17) and oriented primarily normal to and between the top plates (17a,b), and where the

web sections (17c) are fixed to the top plates (17a,b) preferably by a welded connection;

- a mounting plate (149) arranged on the outside of the upper plate (17a); and
- a self lubricating bushing arranged between the lifting collar (48) on the piston rod (47) and the other top plate (17b).

62. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting part (20) also comprises

- an adapter (6) which is connected to a high pressure hose (7) with a swivel (7a), for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from a drive unit or top drive (60),
- a bolted goose neck connection (8), preferably with a swivel, for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix to the piston rod (47) in the lifting part (20), connected to a manifold or adapter (9) for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix from the top drive (60).

63. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting part (20) is supported free to rotate by an elevator apparatus (70) attached to the piston rod (47), preferably in a recess or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod (47).

64. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting part (20) also comprises a tilting arm (10) with one end (10a) arranged concentric to the piston rod (47), and the other end (10b) is attached to a telescopic hydraulic lifting cylinder (61), preferably with the use of a chain connection or other suitable means of attachment.

65. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting part (20) comprises a funnel shaped entry guide (141) with a compliant support ring (146), where the entry guide (141) is configured to encircle the end of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4) and to contact and clamp against the outer diameter of the pipe length or pipe-string (2,3,4)

66. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the piston rod (47) comprises a fluid passage (147) configured for application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix, and a fluid passage (148) configured for venting of air during application of drilling fluid, drilling mud, cement, or other fluid or fluid mix.

67. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the hydraulic system (40) is a double acting or two way piston cylinder mechanism which comprises a hydraulic cylinder (42) with a piston cylinder base (44), a piston cylinder plate (41) and a hydraulic piston (43) which is arranged concentric to and fix to the axial piston rod (47).

68. A lifting tool according to claim 67, where hydraulic oil is supplied by a preferably radial inlet (50) on the support part (5) and via a predominantly vertical passage (51) for hydraulic oil through the piston rod (47) and with a radial outlet for hydraulic oil from the piston rod (47) under the piston (43) to move the piston (43) upwards.

69. A lifting tool according to claim 67, where the hydraulic system (40) also comprises:

- an inlet fluid passage (51) for hydraulic oil to one side of the hydraulic piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42); and
- an outlet fluid passage (52) for hydraulic oil to the other side of the hydraulic piston (43) in the hydraulic cylinder (42);
- where the inlet passage (51) and the outlet passage (52) run through the piston rod (47) from the manifold (9).

70. A lifting tool according to claim 67, where hydraulic oil is supplied from the hydraulic cylinder (42) upper part above the piston (43) to drive the outer clamping rings (24) downward such that the inner clamping segments (29) with packing or packing ring (29a) retract from and release the inner diameter of the pipe length (3,4).

71. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the lifting tool lifting part (20) also comprises an indicator system configured for one or more independent sensors (15) in the lifting tool lifting part (20), preferably spring loaded pressure sensors, to determine the lifting part (20) position with respect to the end of the pipe length (3,4), and where each sensor (15) is connected to a limit switch (14).

72. A lifting tool according to claim 64, where the lifting tool lifting part (20) comprises a locking mechanism for the lifting tool,

- where a slotted hub (5a) is arranged concentric to and attached to the piston rod (47), and where the tilting arm (10) is compliant, preferably with a spring loaded joint (10a) in the tilting arm (10),
- where the compliant tilting arm (10, 10a) is configured for movement from an initial position and passively downwards into one of the slots in the slotted hub (5a) to an operating position, for locking of the lifting tool against rotation of the lifting tool lifting part (20).

73. A lifting tool according to claim 55, where the spring loaded joint (10a) is configured for release of the tilting arm (10) upon retraction of the spring loaded joint (10a) from a position where the lifting tool lifting part (20) has rotated from an initial position and back to the initial position.

74. A lifting system for lifting or lowering pipe length (3,4) and a pipe-string (2), during joining and lowering or lifting and disassembly of conductor, casing, risers, drill strings, or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160), where the lifting system comprises

- a lifting tool with lifting part (20) and a support part (5) connected to an elevator apparatus (70) which is connected to a top drive (60) and where the lifting tool lifting part (20) shall work together with a power slip (150) which is configured to receive and support a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2);

characterised by

- the lifting tool lifting part (20) is configured for removable installation in an elevator apparatus (70);

- the elevator apparatus (70) is configured to control the orientation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) such that the lifting tool can engage and grip the end of a pipe length (3,4) and be activated;
- the elevator apparatus (70) and lifting tool upon application of lifting force and activation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) are configured to lift the lifting tool lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) for joining with or connecting to the standing pipe length or pipe-string (2) below; and
- the lifting tool and lifting tool support part (5) is configured for application or circulation of drilling fluids, drilling mud, cement or other fluid or fluid mix to the bore hole or well (160).

75. A lifting system according to claim 74, the lifting tool lifting part (20) is configured for removable installation in an elevator apparatus (70), preferably it an upper part or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod (47).

76. A lifting system according to claim 74, where the lifting tool lifting part (20) is configured for rotation about a horizontal or predominantly horizontal axis in the elevator apparatus (70), to grasp an end of a horizontal or nearly horizontal laying pipe length (3,4,), and to be engaged against the inner or outer diameter of an end of the pipe length (3,4)

77. A lifting system according to claim 74, where the lifting system also comprises a rotation apparatus (power tongs) (80) which is configured for rotation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3,4) about the piston rod (47), to achieve a controlled in-screwing of the pipe length (3,4) in the standing pipe length or pipe-string (2) below,

and where the lifting tool lifting part (20) after the joining of the pipe length (3) with the pipe-string (2) is configured to carry all or part of the weight of the resulting pipe-string (2).

78. A lifting system according to claim 74, where the lifting tool is configured to receive lifting force from the top drive (60) to activate the lifting tool, such that the lifting tool after activation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) against the pipe length (3,4) inner or outer diameter, is put in position to lift the pipe length (3,4) or pipe-string (2,3,4), and move to a rotary table (161) for joining of the pipe length (3,4) with the standing pipe-string (2) below.

79. A lifting system according to claim 76-78, with a tube feeding machine for feeding of pipe length (3,4) to the lifting tool lifting part (20).

80. A lifting system according to claim 79, where the lifting system comprises a manipulator arm (170) for moving the far end of the pipe length (3,4) from the tube feeding machine (180) to a vertical position over the standing pipe length or pipe-string (2).

81. A lifting system according to claim 75, where the rotation apparatus (80) comprises a clamping system, or a set of power tongs (81) which are configured to hold the pipe length or pipe-string (2) in a fixed position, and a torque apparatus or second set of power tongs (82) configured for rotation of the lifting part (20) and pipe length (3,4) for joining with the pipe length or pipe-string (2) with the use of a torque or rotation motor.

82. A method for lifting of pipe length for joining of pipe length (3,4) to a pipe-string (2), as well as conductor, casing, risers or similar for application in a bore hole or well (160) with the use of a lifting system and a lifting tool, where the method consists of the following steps:

- the pipe length (3,4) is brought to the start position in proximity to the lifting tool lifting part (20);
- the lifting tool lifting part (20) grasps the end of the pipe length (3,4) which is or will be the upper end of the pipe length (3,4);
- the lifting part (20) is activated for engagement with at least one of the pipe length (3,4) inner or outer diameters with the help of a hydraulic system (40);
- a top drive or derrick crane (60) lifts the lifting tool with the pipe length (3,4) to the vertical or near vertical position over a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2);
- the opposite end of the pipe length (3,4) is joined with the standing pipe length or pipe-string (2) below resulting in an extended pipe-string (2);
- the resulting pipe-string (2) is lowered and held in place by a power slip (150) which is configured to hold the pipe length or pipe-string (2) it the drill floor;
- the resulting pipe-string (2) is released from the power slip (150) such that it is suspended from the top drive (60) and the lifting tool;
- the resulting pipe-string is lowered and again held in place by the power slip (150); and
- the lifting tool is uncoupled from the end of the resulting pipe-string (2).

83. A method according to claim 82, where the method also comprises the following steps:

- the lifting tool support part (5) is placed or held in an elevator apparatus (70), preferably in an upper part or lifting shoulder (13) on the piston rod (47), prior to the pipe length (3) being brought to the lifting tool.

84. A method according to claim 82, where the method also comprises the following steps:

- the lifting tool lifting part (20) is rotated about a predominantly horizontal axis in an elevator apparatus (70), with the use of a tilting arm (10) which in one end is fastened to the lifting tool support part (5) and in the other end connected to a lifting cylinder (61) mounted on the top drive (60), from a predominantly vertical initial position to an engagement position with a horizontal or predominantly horizontal laying pipe length (3);
- the pipe length (3) is moved forward to the lifting tool lifting part with the help of a tube feeding machine and into the lifting tool lifting part (20) prior to activating the lifting tool lifting part (20).

85. A method according to claim 84, where the method also comprises the following steps:

- as the pipe length (3) is moved forward on the tube feeding machine, the opposite end of the pipe length (3) is moved into position over the standing pipe-string (2) by a manipulator arm (170); and
- the lifting tool and the pipe length (3) is lowered to the standing pipe-string (2) below for joining with the pipe-string (2).

86. A method according to claim 82, where the method also comprises the following step:

- joining of the pipe length (3) and the pipe-string (2) is achieved by in-screwing of the opposite lower end of the pipe length (3) in a threaded section of the upper end of the standing pipe-string (2) through rotation of the lifting tool lifting part (20) with the pipe length (3) about the lifting tool primary axis with the help of a rotation system (80).

87. A method according to claim 82, where the method also comprises the following step:

- upon activation of the lifting tool a clamping system (24,29) in the lifting tool lifting part is engaged against one or both of the inner and outer diameters of the pipe length (3,4) with the help of a piston hydraulic system (40).

88. A method according to claim 87, where the method also comprises the following step:

- upon activation of the lifting tool an entry cone (140) or expanding packing (140) is pressed against the pipe length (3,4) inner diameter.

89. A method according to claim 84, where the method also comprises the following step:

- in-screwing of a lifting nipple (32) into a threaded section of the upper or following upper end of the pipe length (3,4), preferably with the use of a nipple rotation system (90).

90. A method according to claim 87, where the method also comprises the following step:

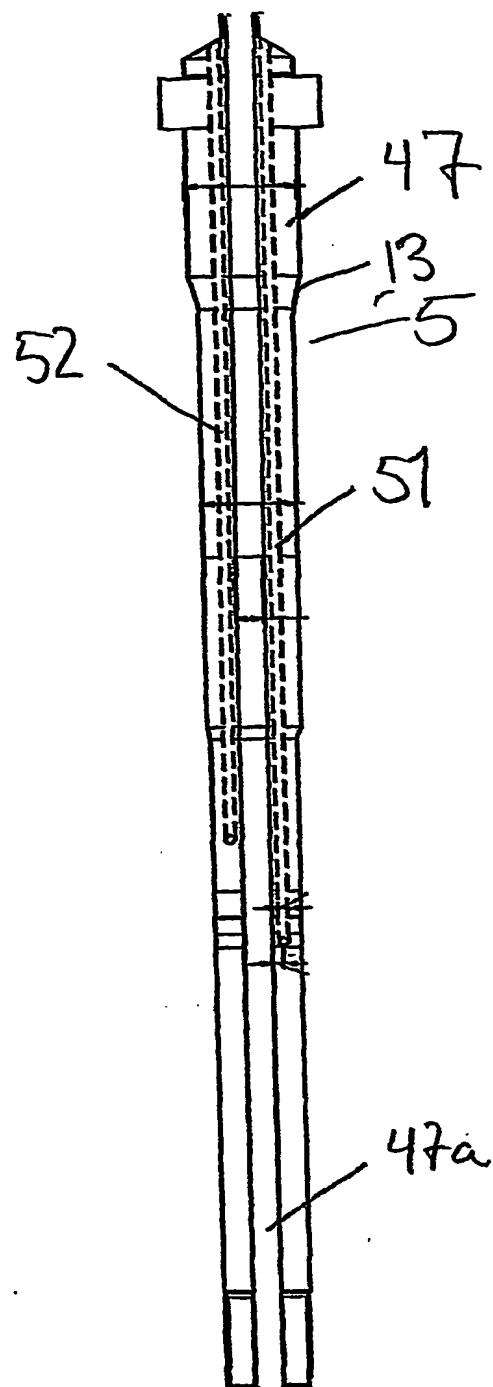
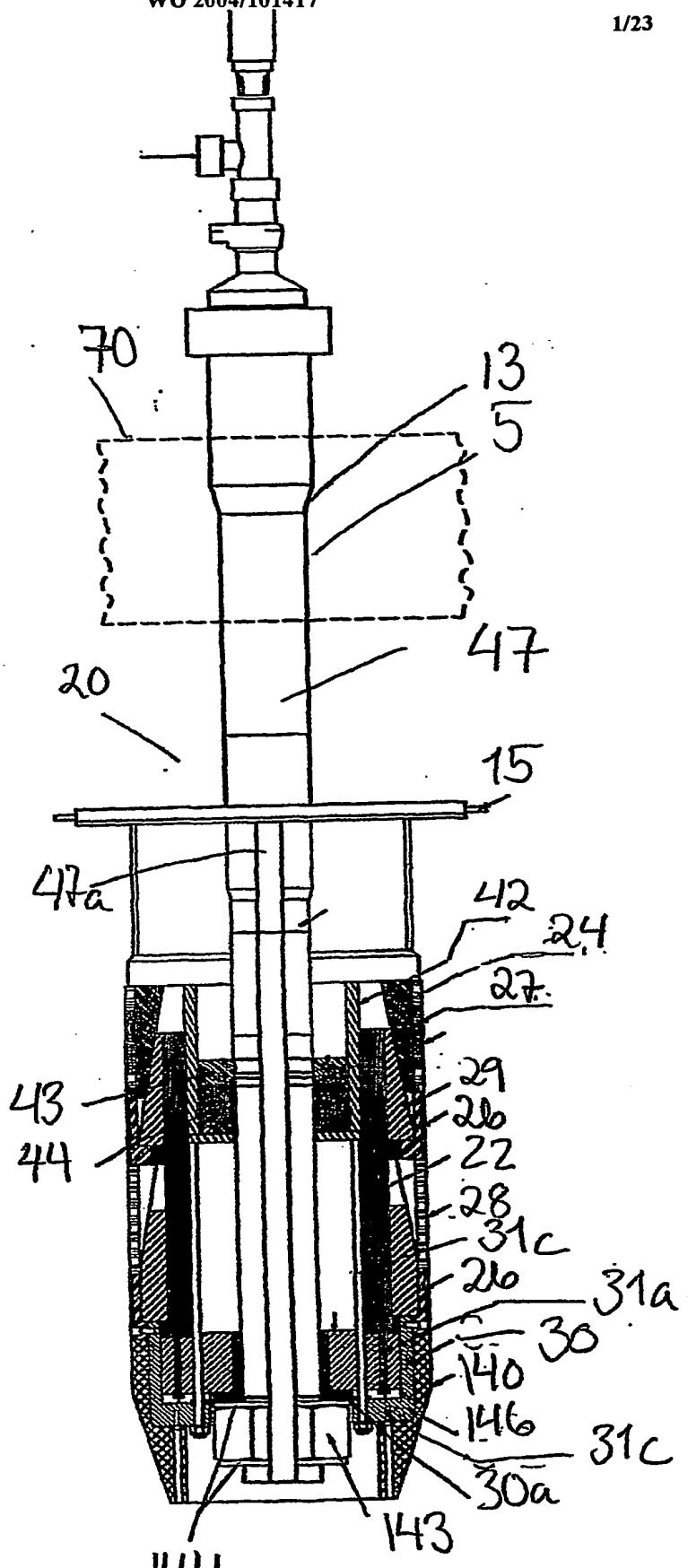
- upon release of the lifting tool from the pipe-string (2), the clamping system (24,29) in the lifting tool lifting part (20) is disengaged from the pipe-string (2) end with the use of a hydraulic system (40), such that the lifting tool can move to the finish or standby position.

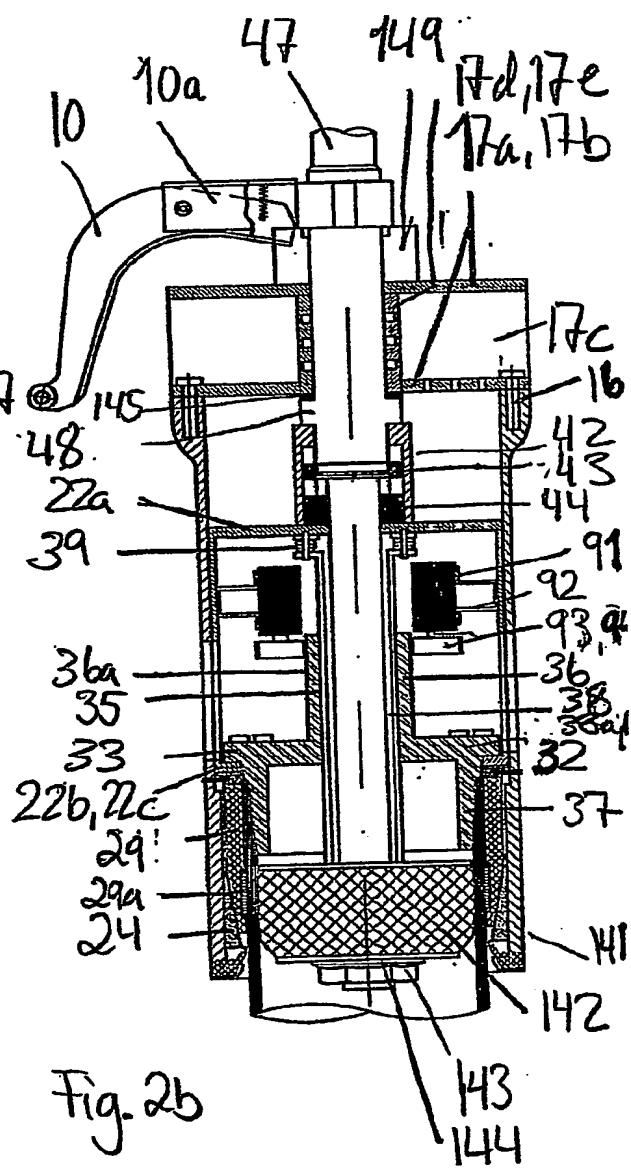
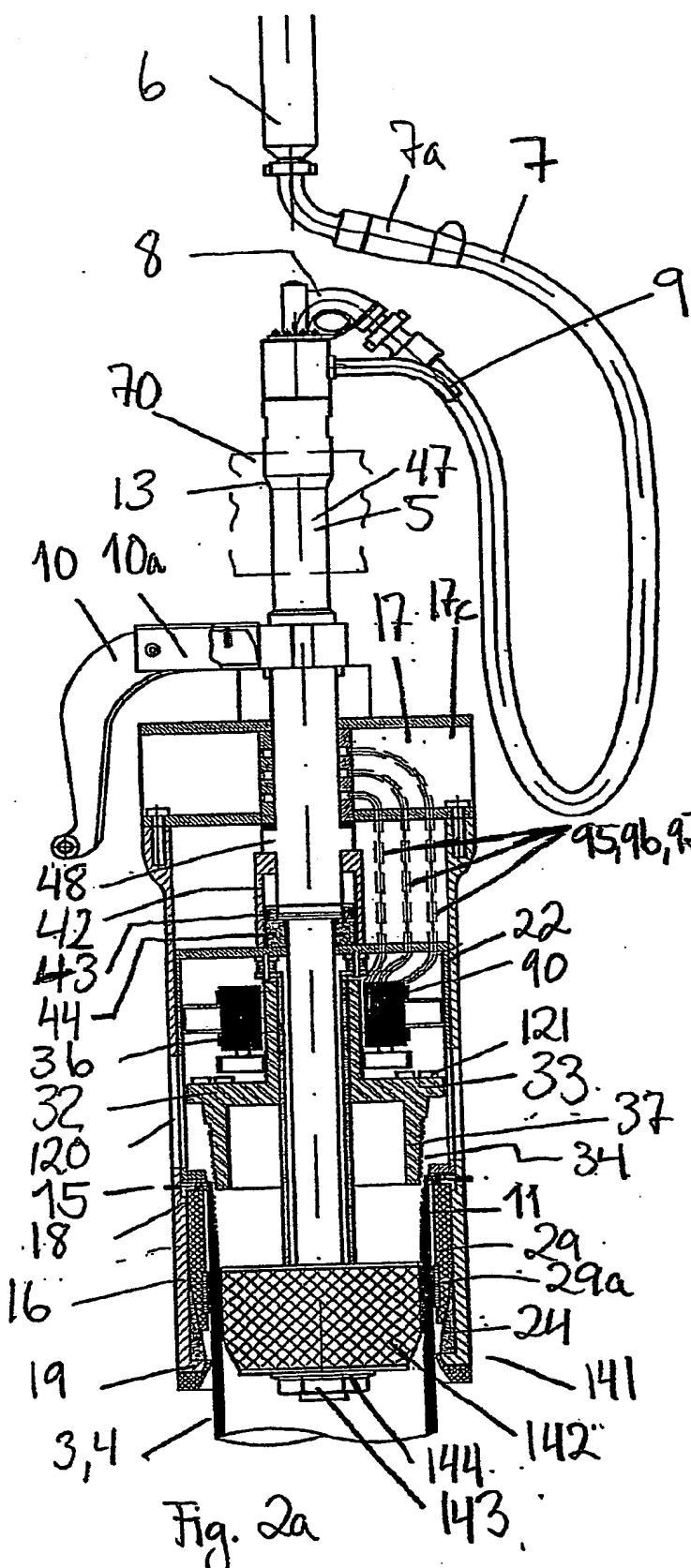
91. A method according to claim 90, where the method also comprises the following step:

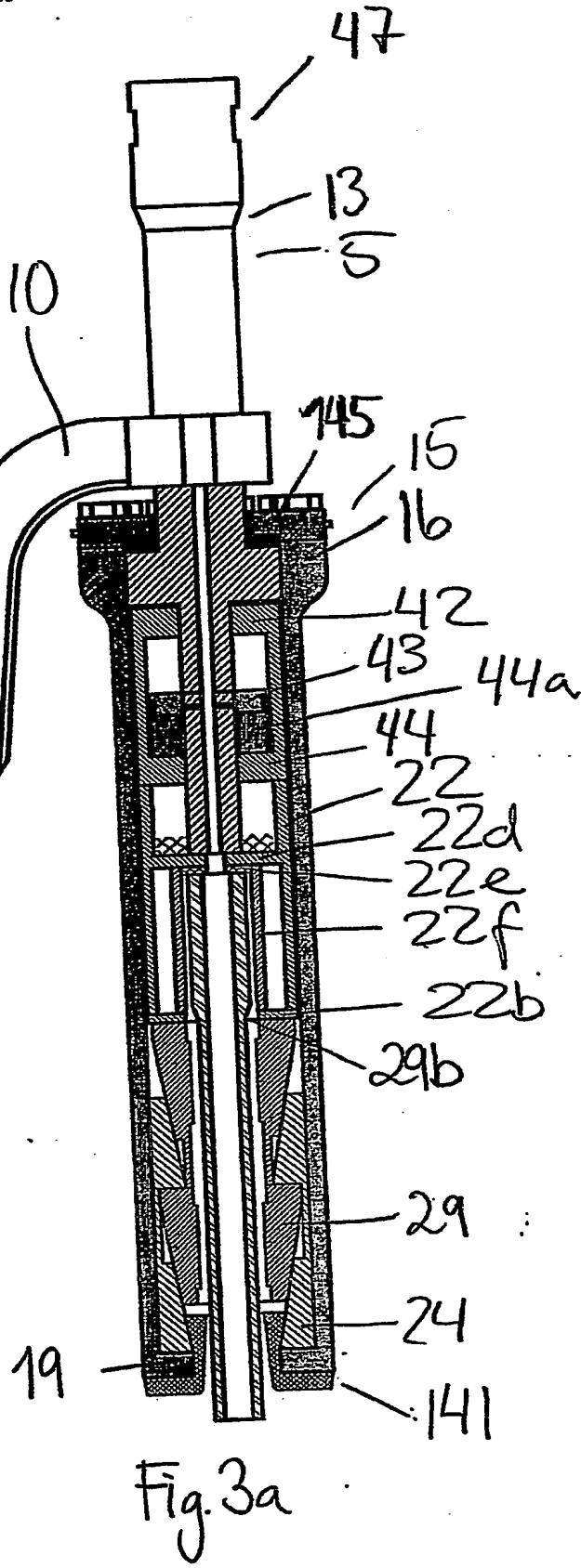
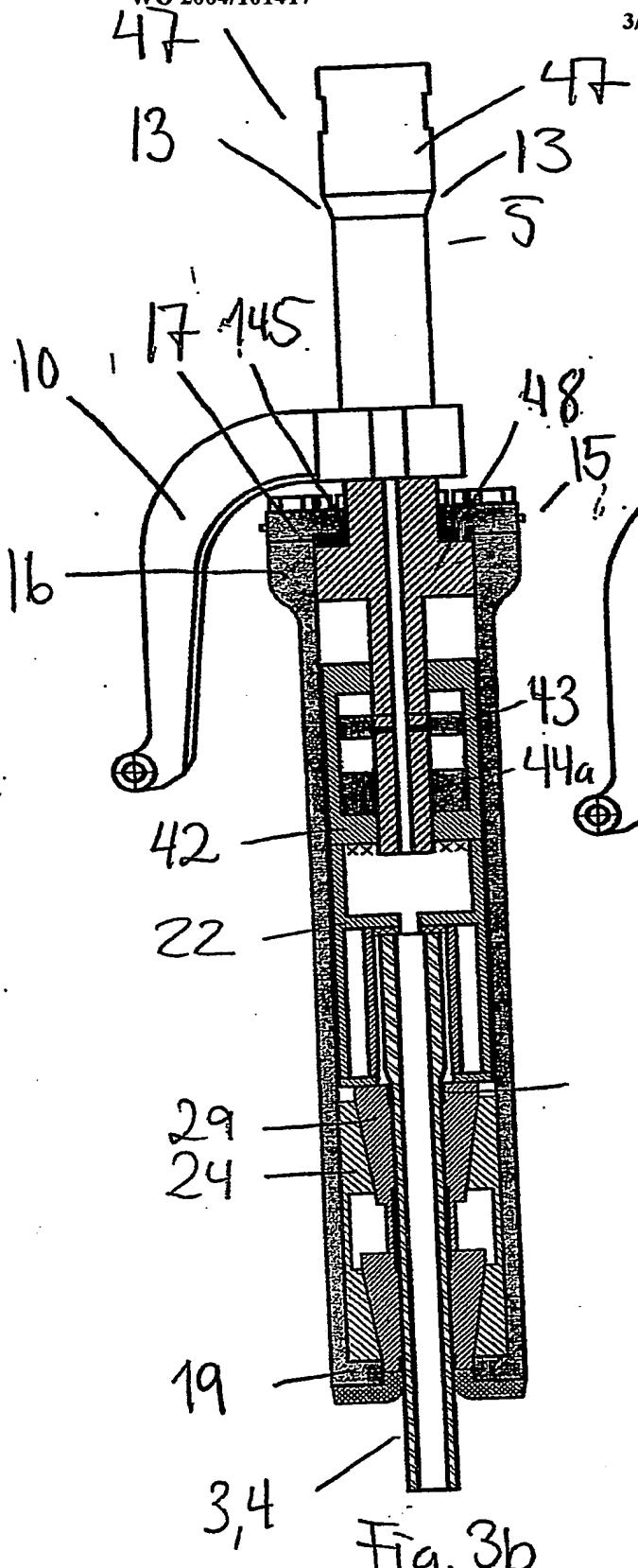
- upon release of the lifting tool from the pipe-string (2), the lifting nipple (32) is unscrewed from the threaded end of the pipe-string (2), preferably with the use of a nipple rotation system (90), or manually with the use of a manual release system for the lifting nipple, and thereafter the clamping system (24,29) is released from the pipe-string (2) end.

92. A method according to claim 82, where the method also comprises the following step:

- progress of entering the pipe length (3) into the lifting part (20) is monitored by a sensor system, preferably with one or more independent sensors (14,15) each connected to a limit switch, which serves to stop the movement of the pipe length at the proper moment to avoid damage to the end of the pipe length, and to indicate proper centering of the lifting tool lifting part (20) with respect to the end of the pipe length (3,4) to be engaged by the lifting tool.







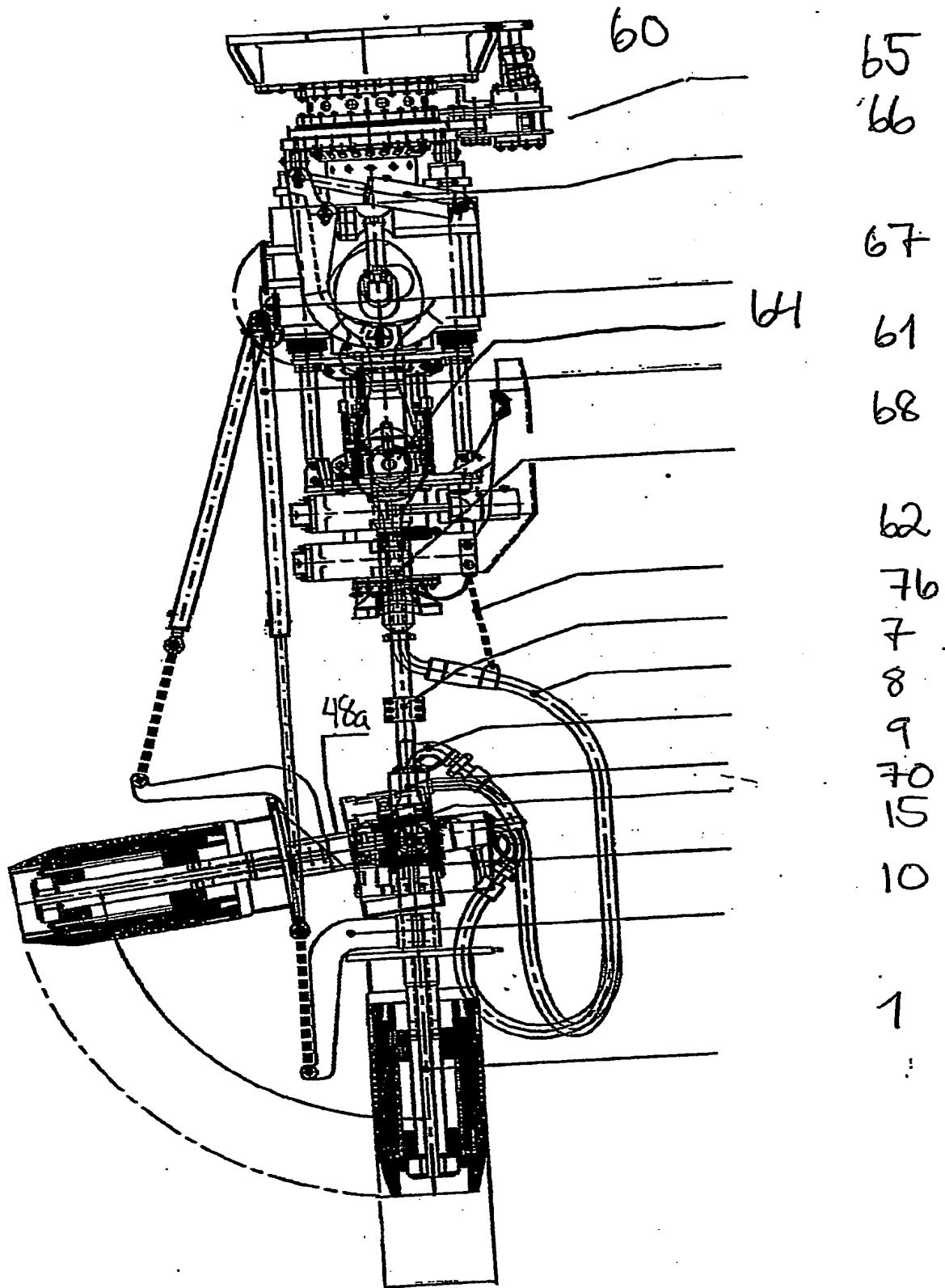
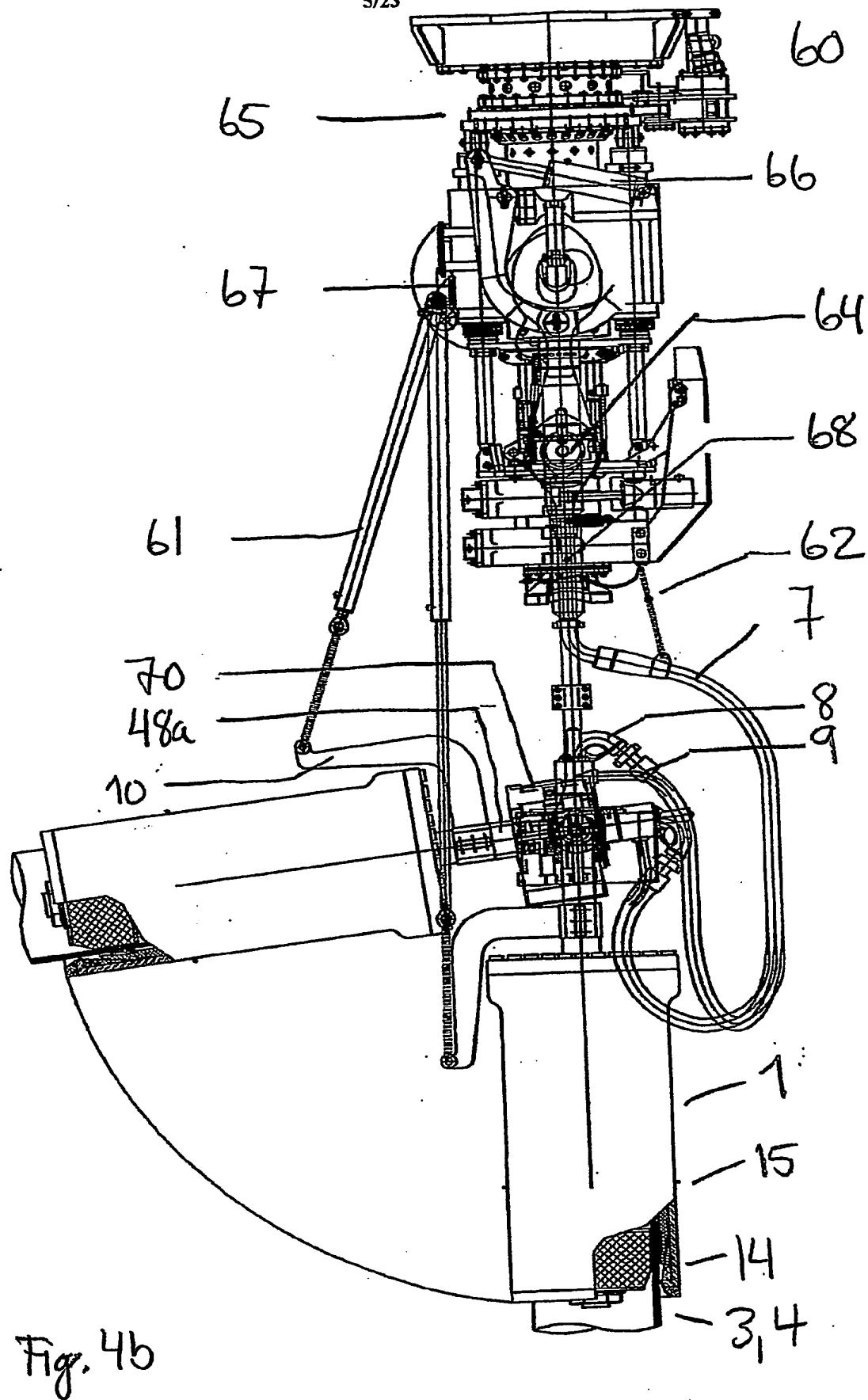


Fig. 4a



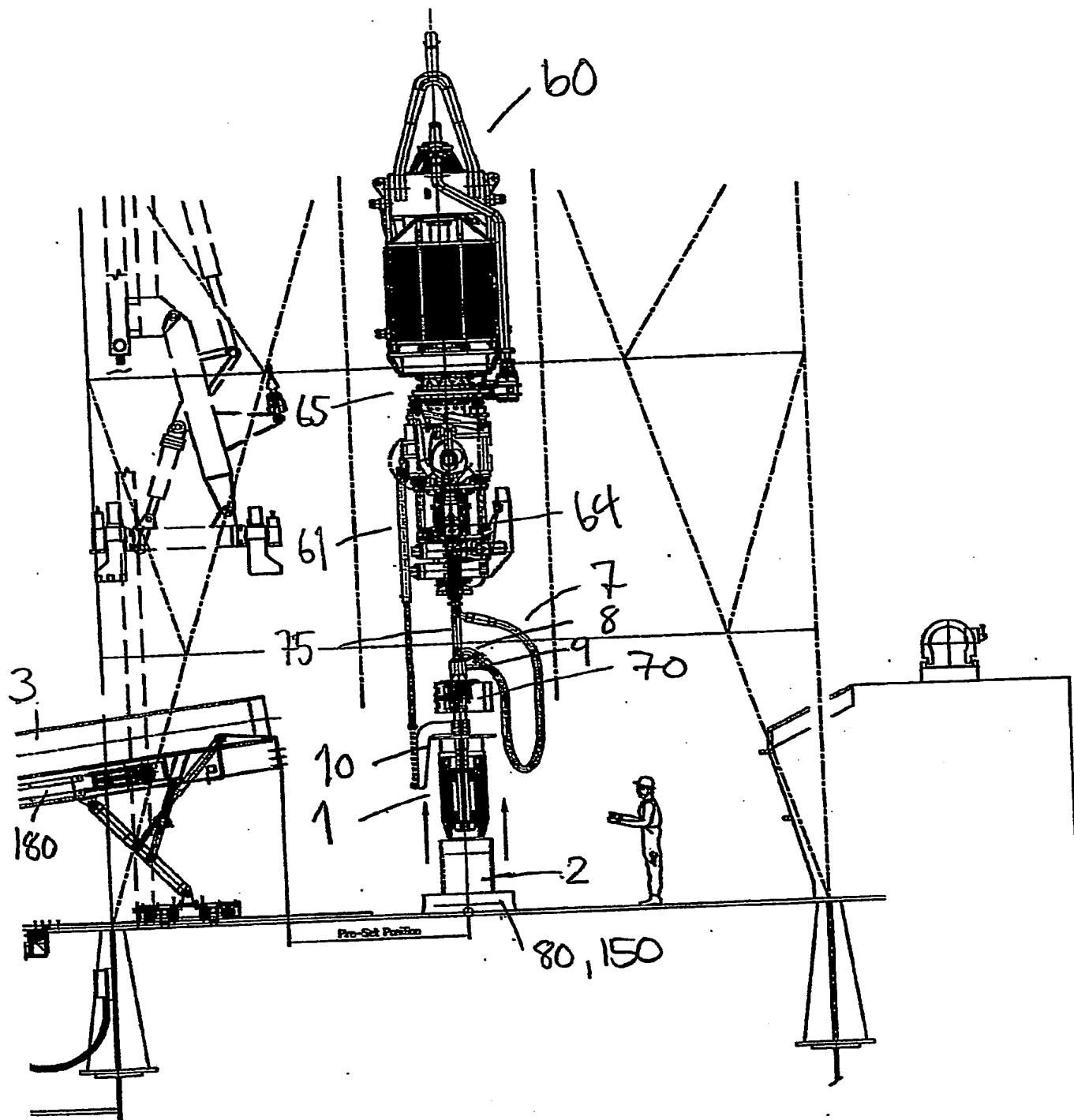
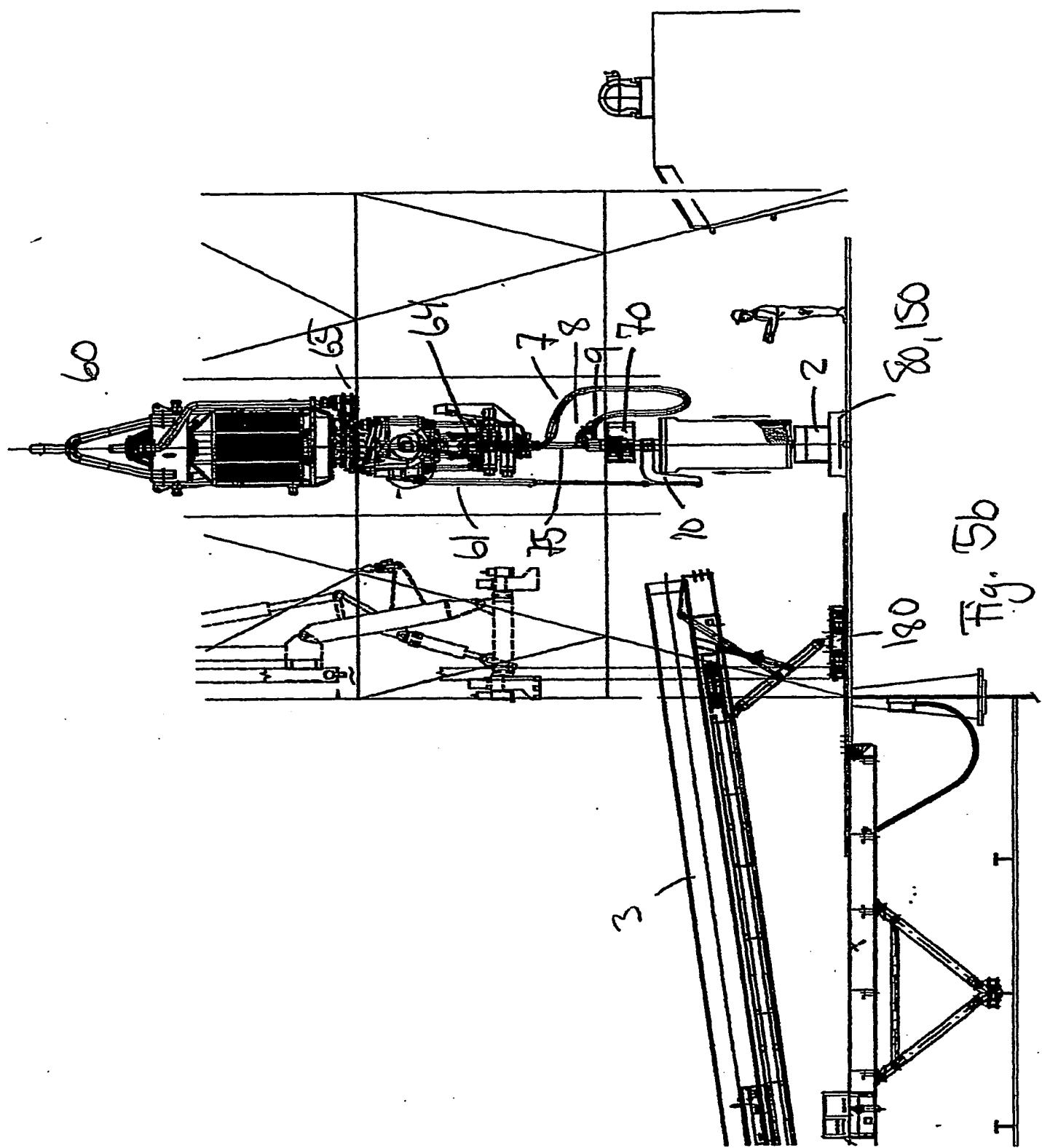
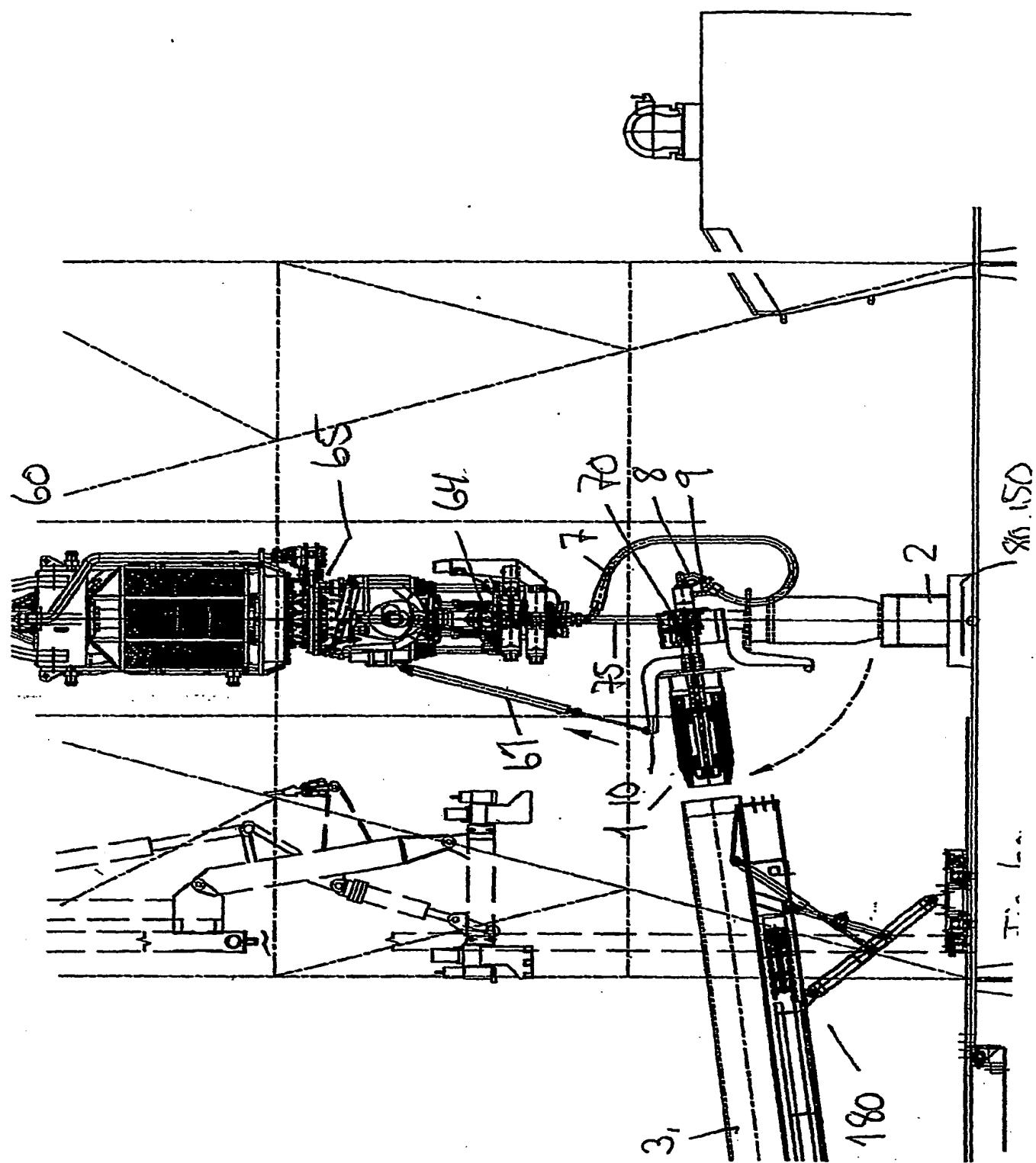
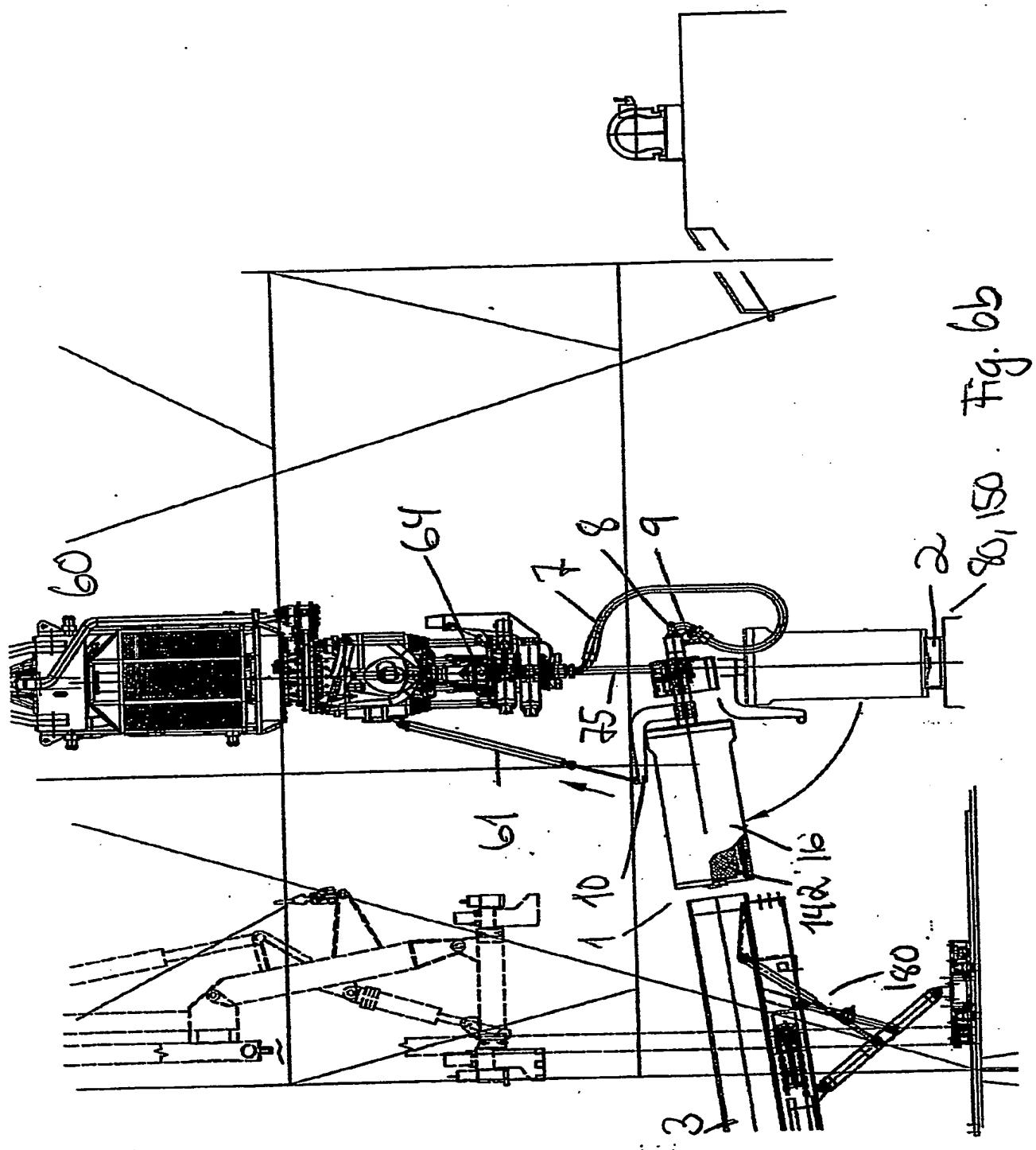
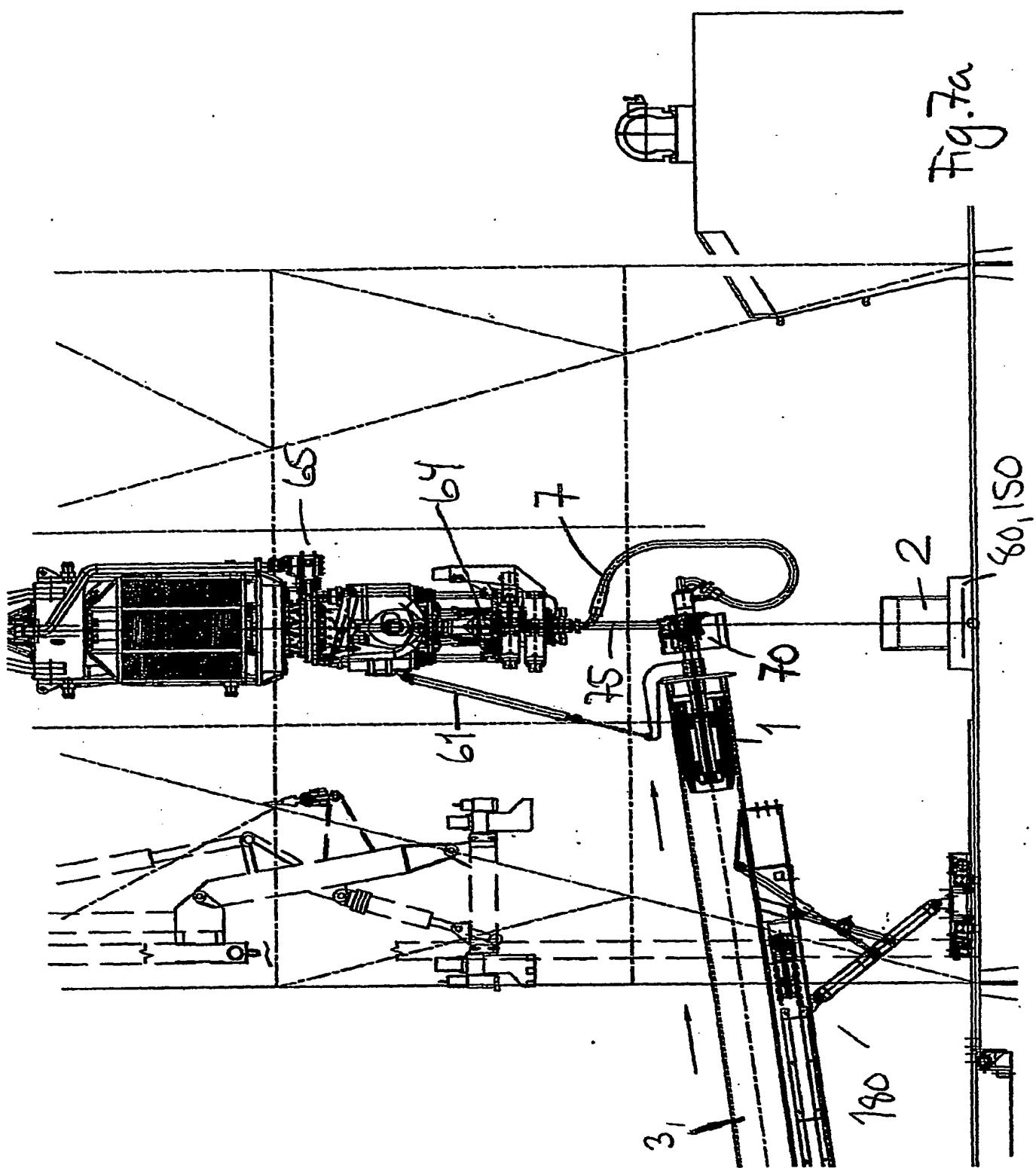


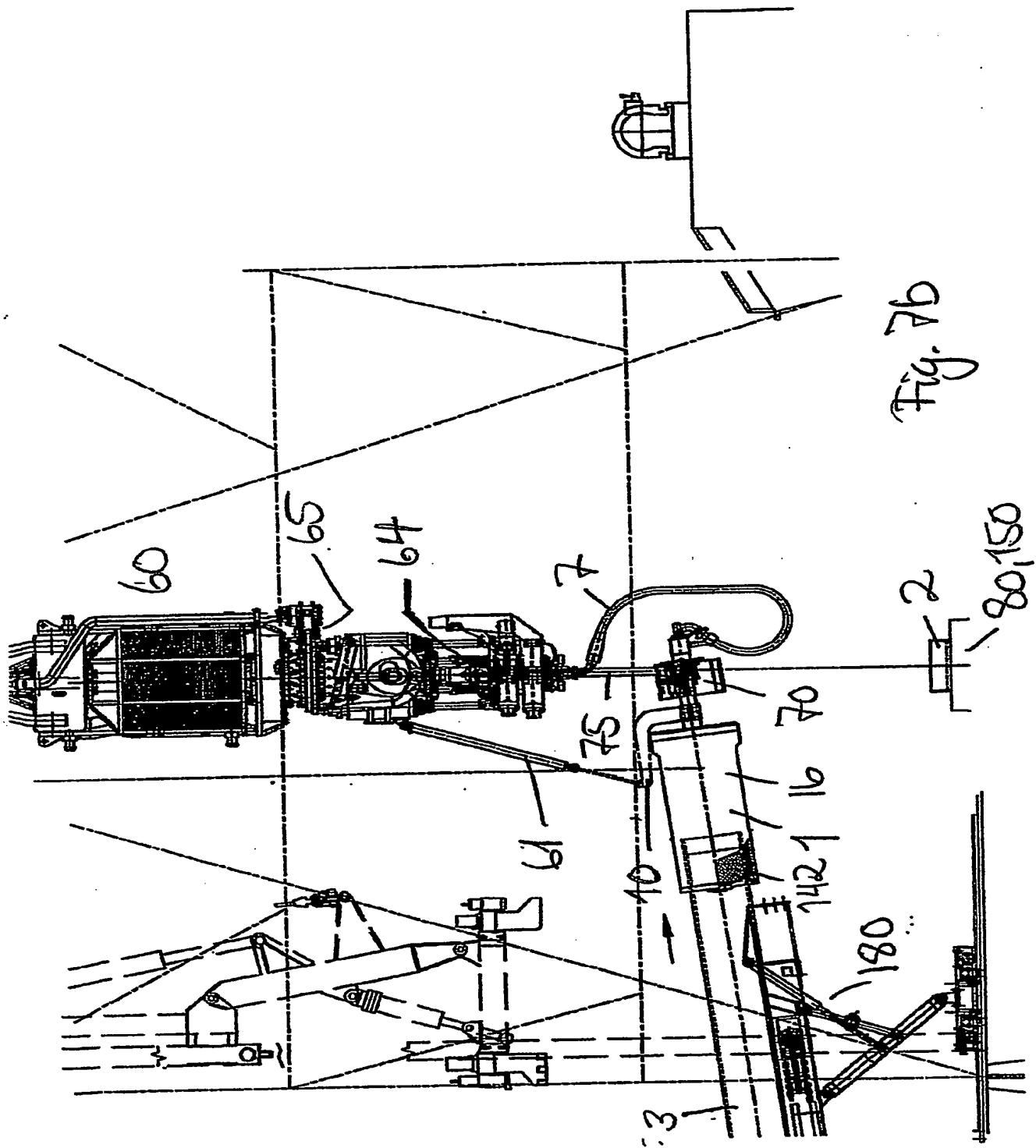
Fig. 5a

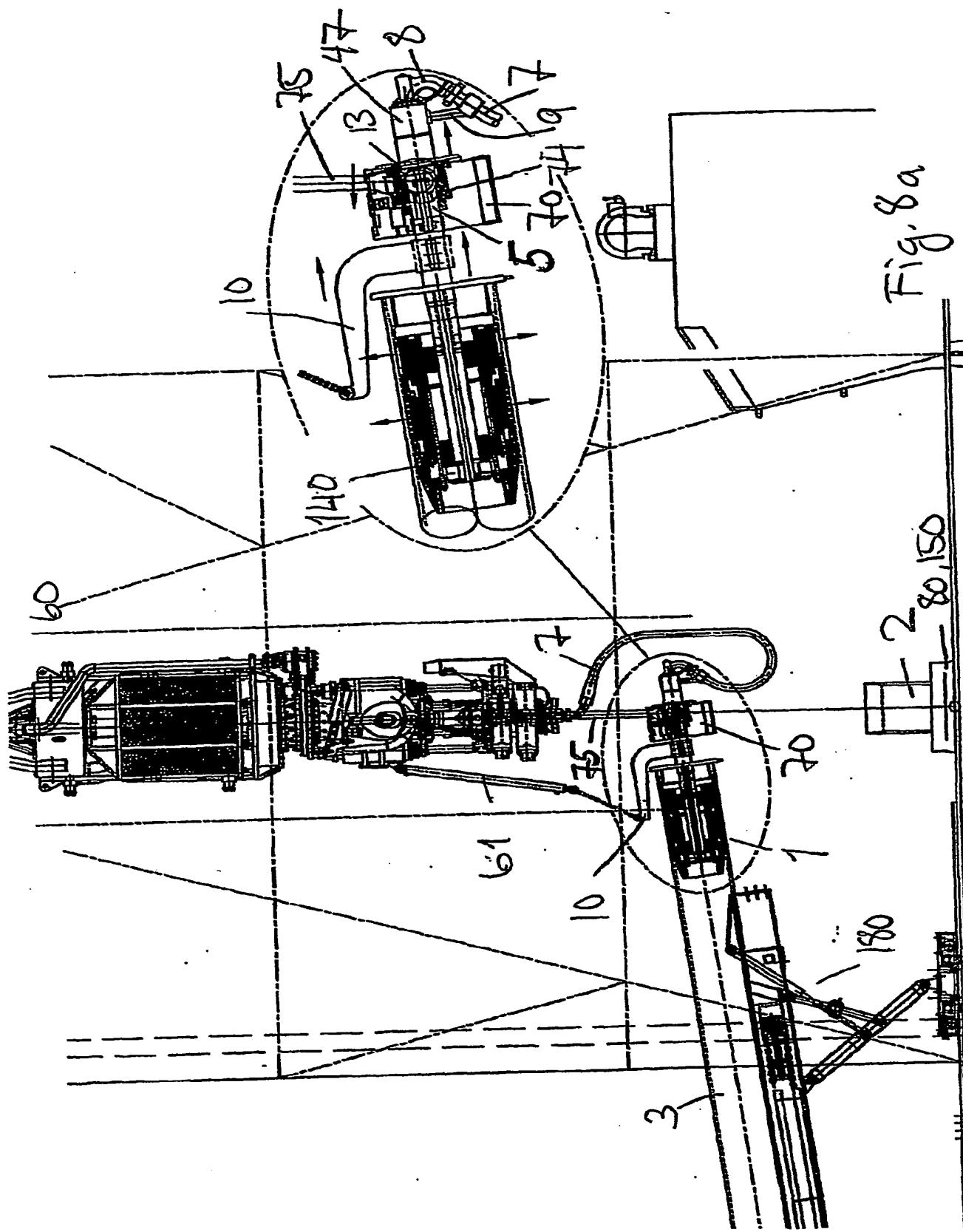


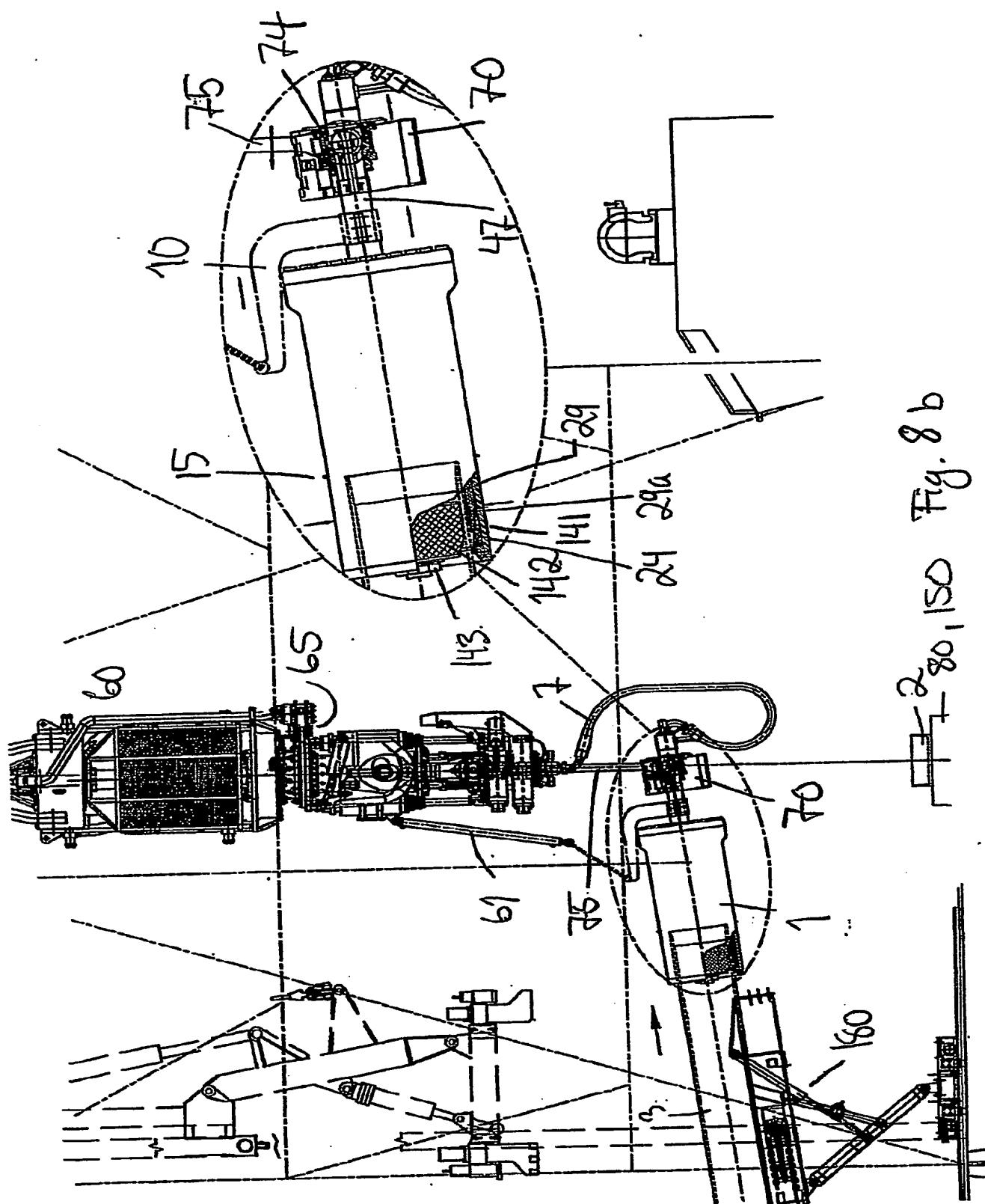


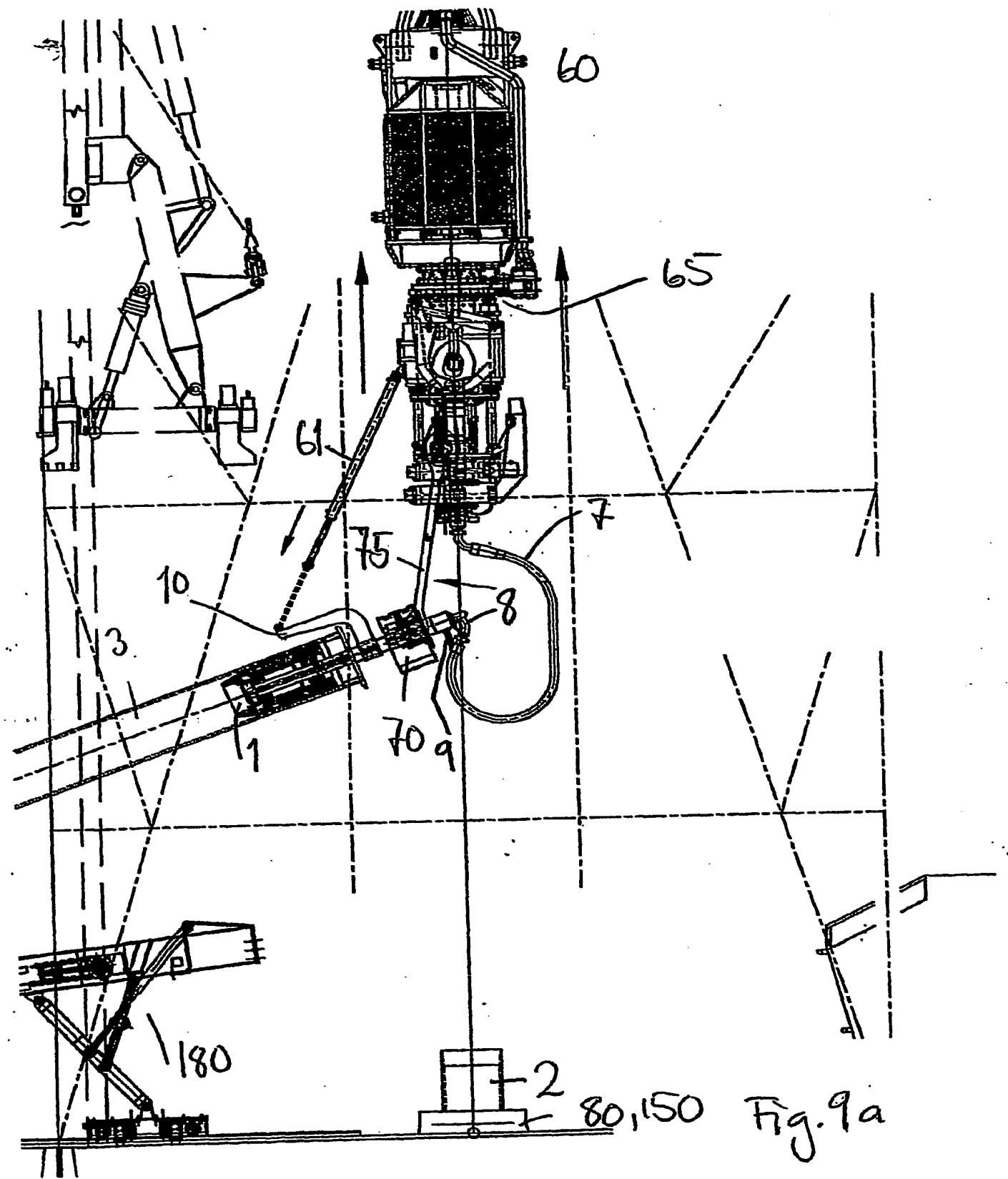


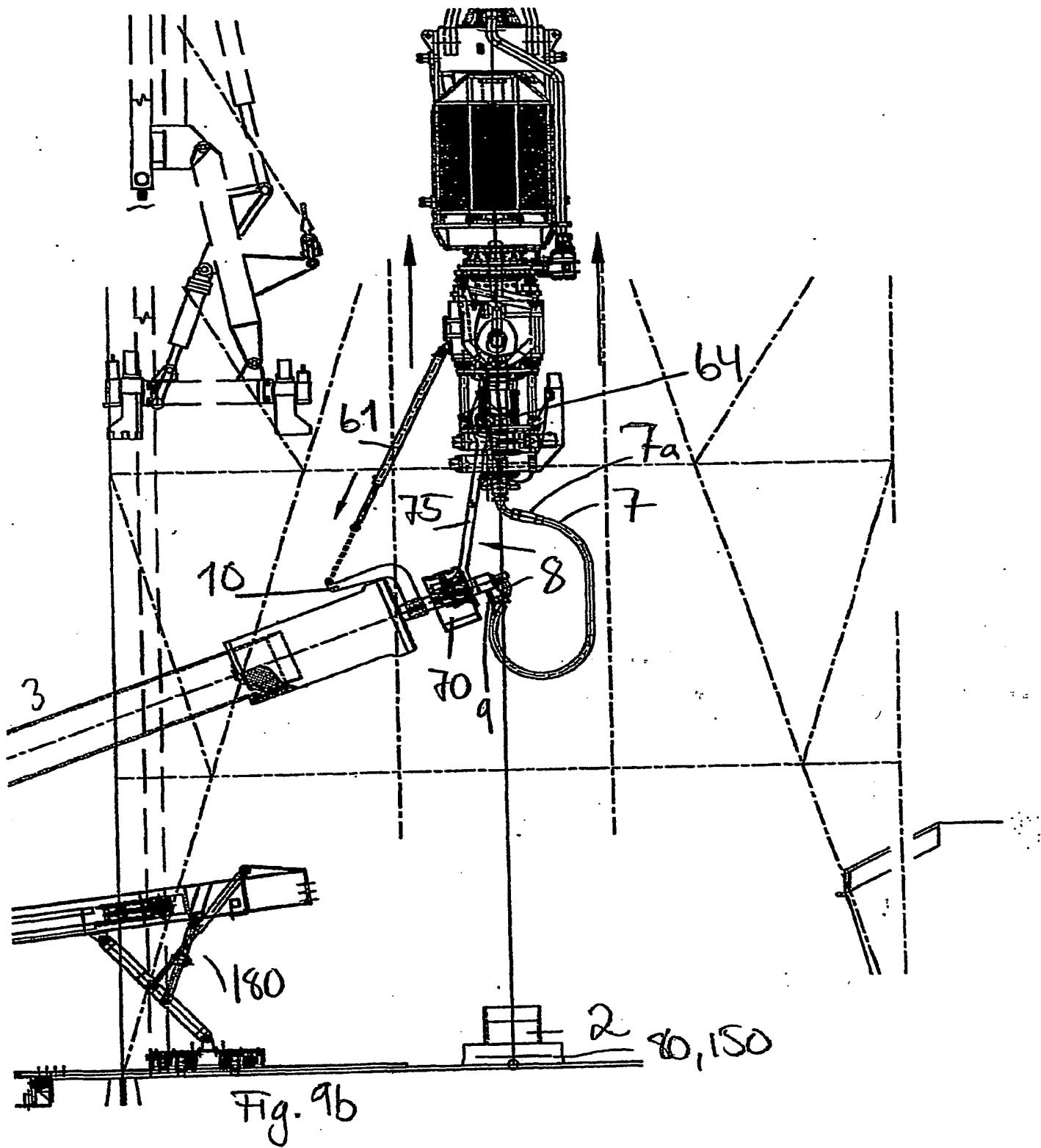


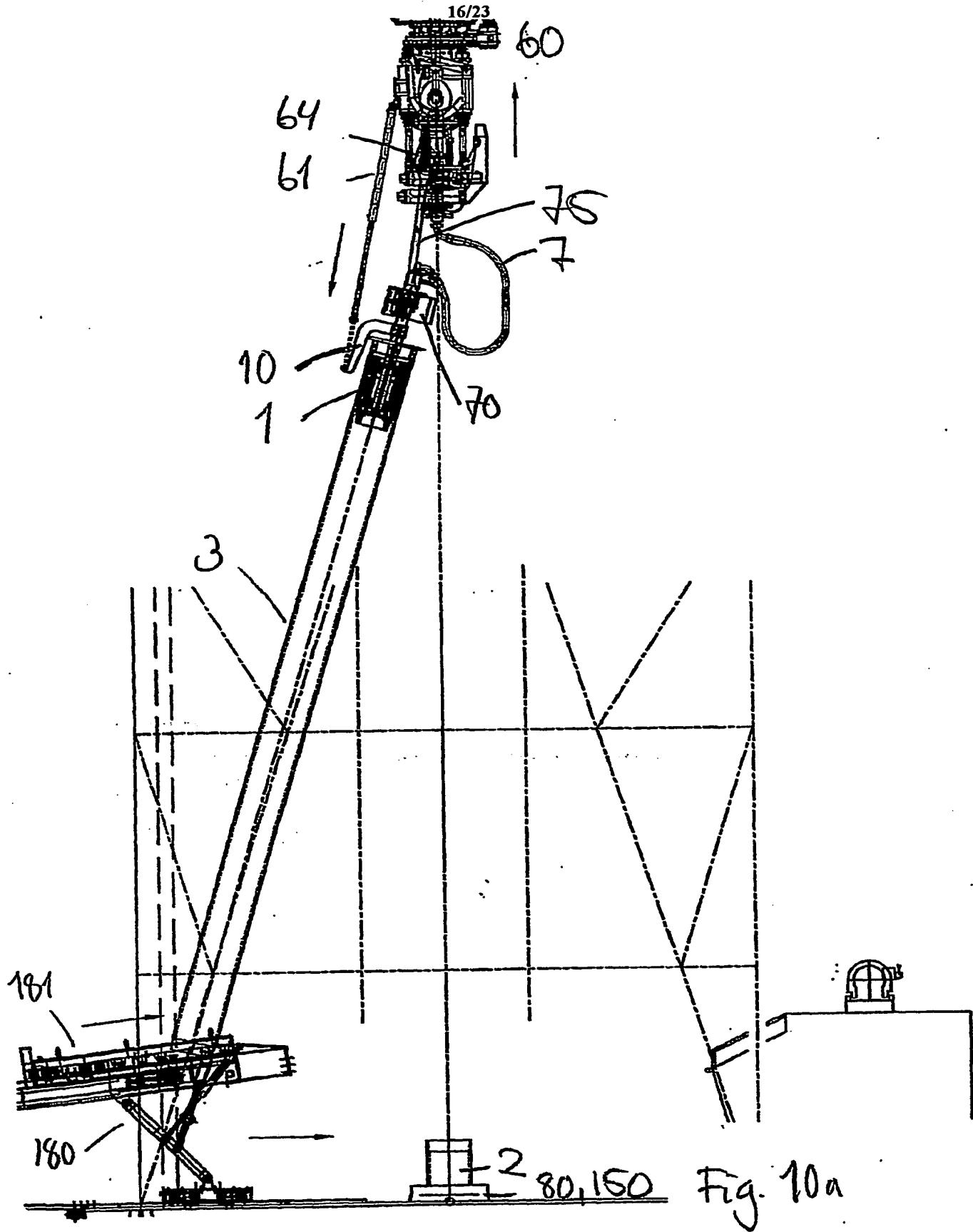


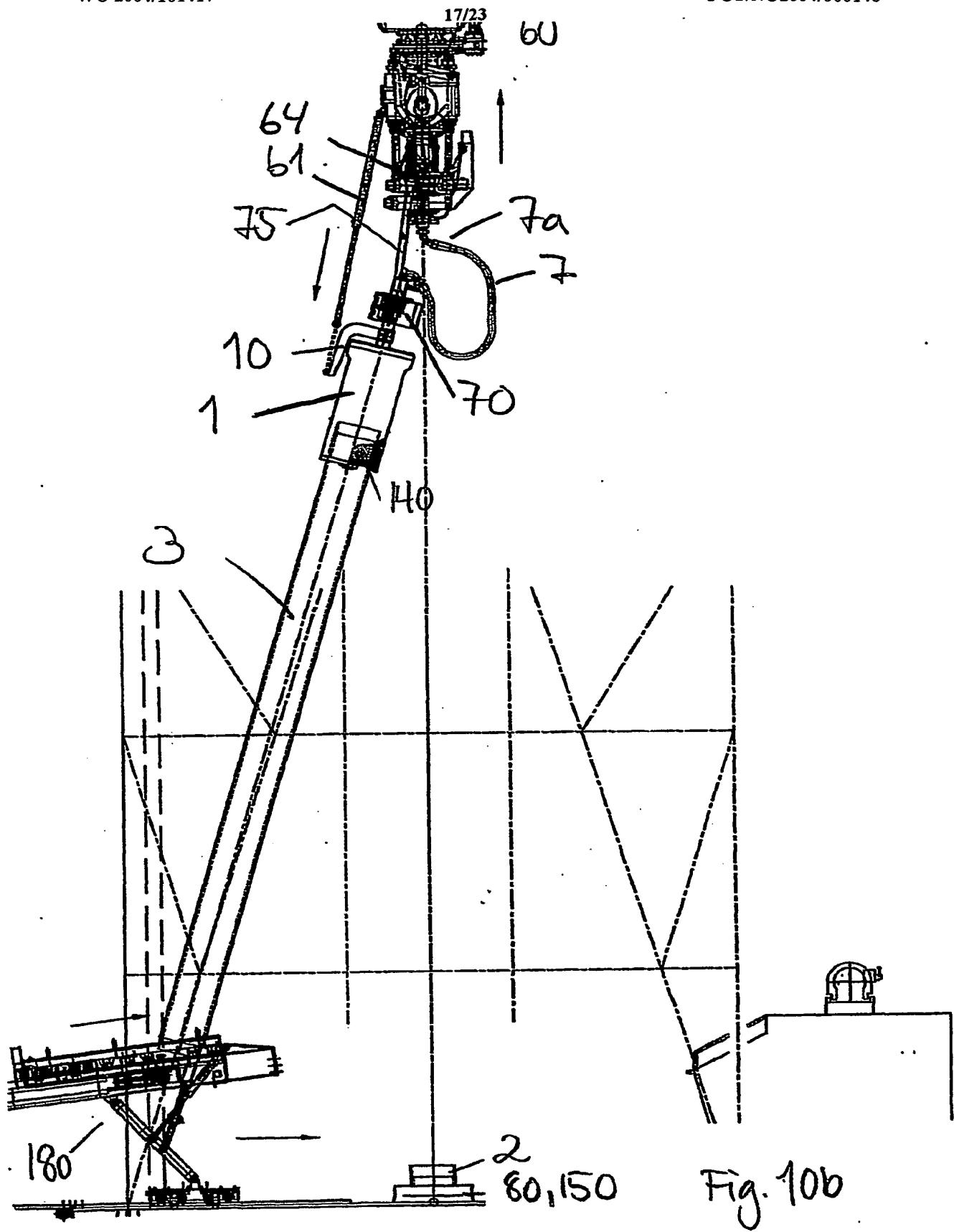


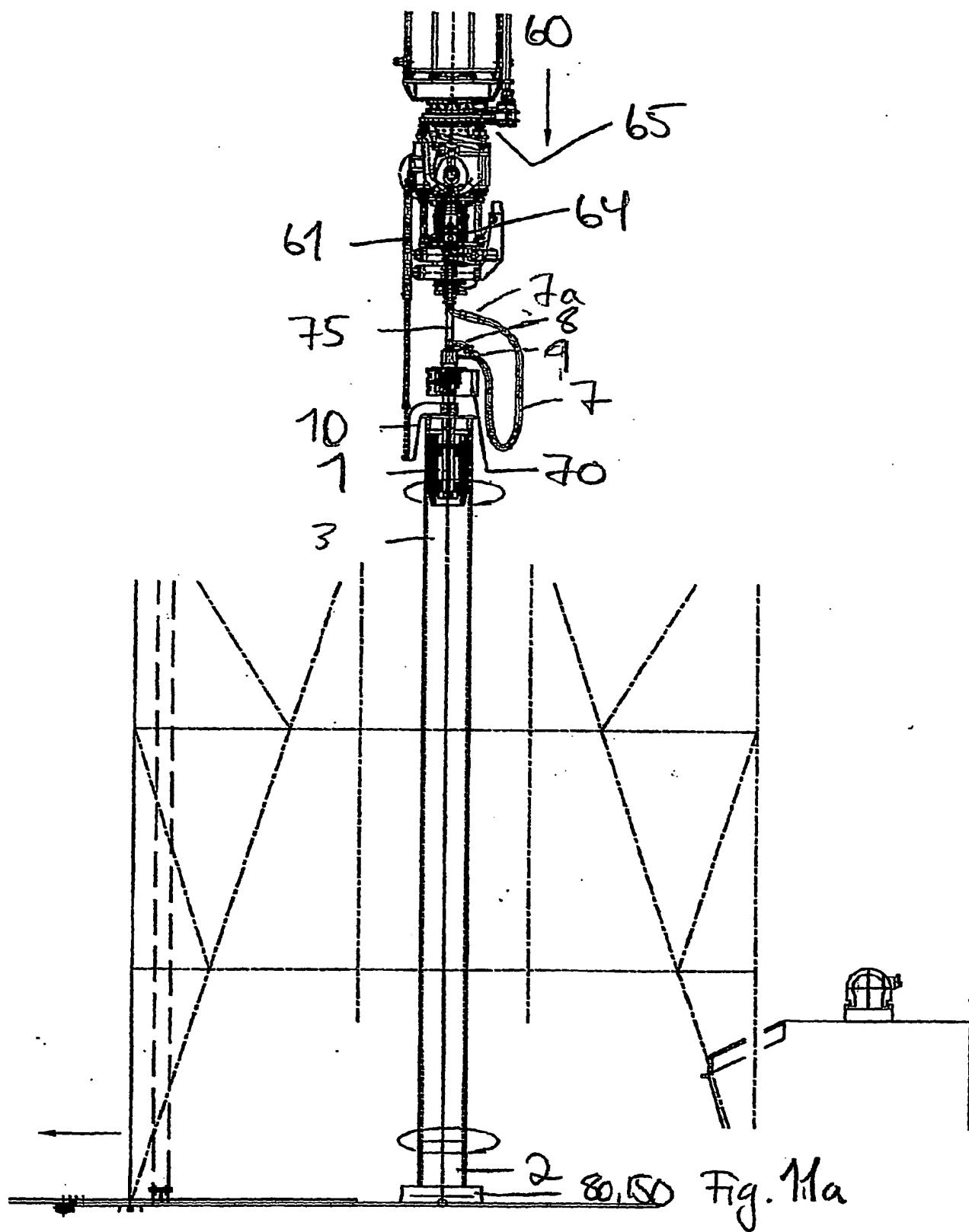


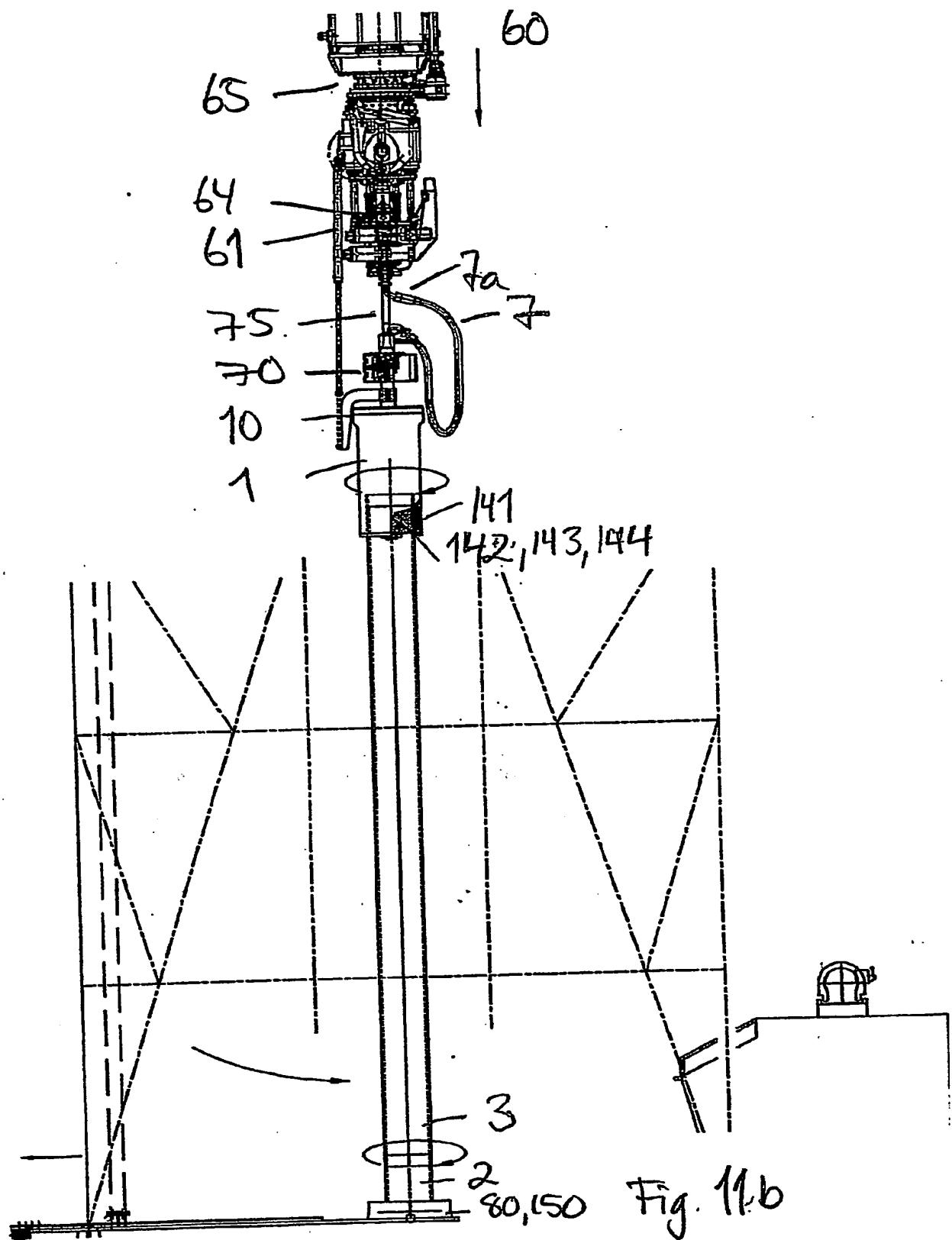












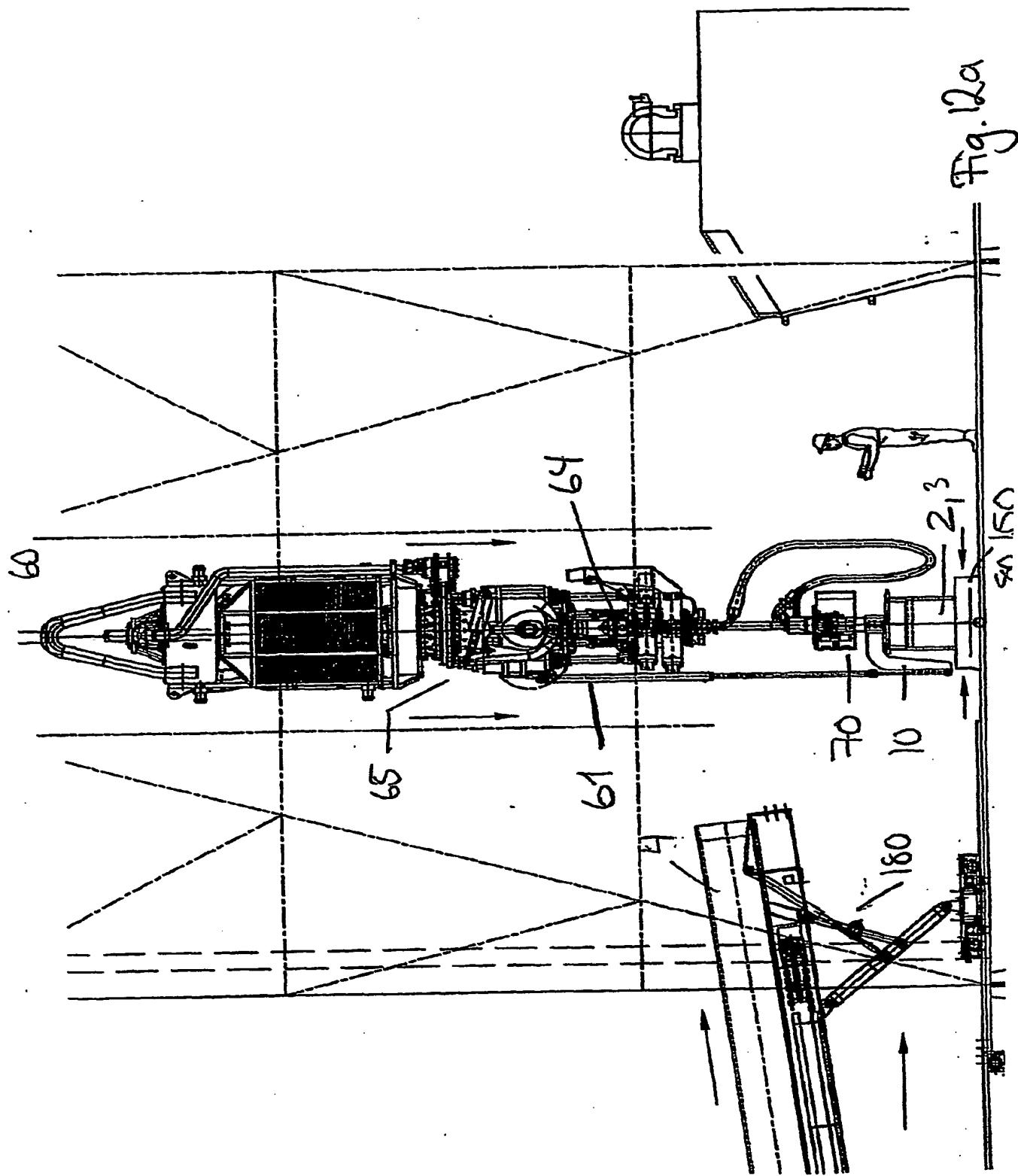
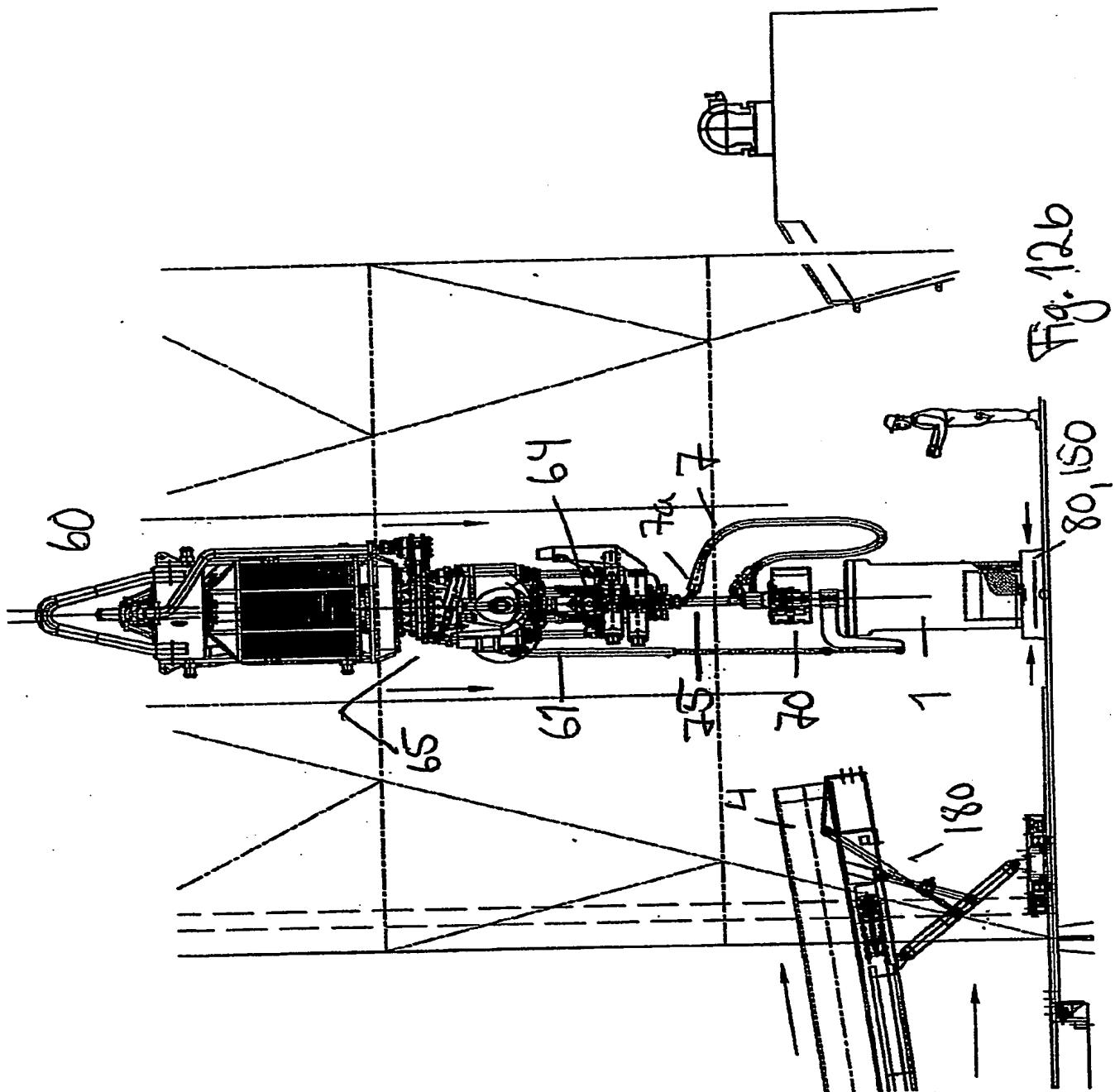


Fig. 126



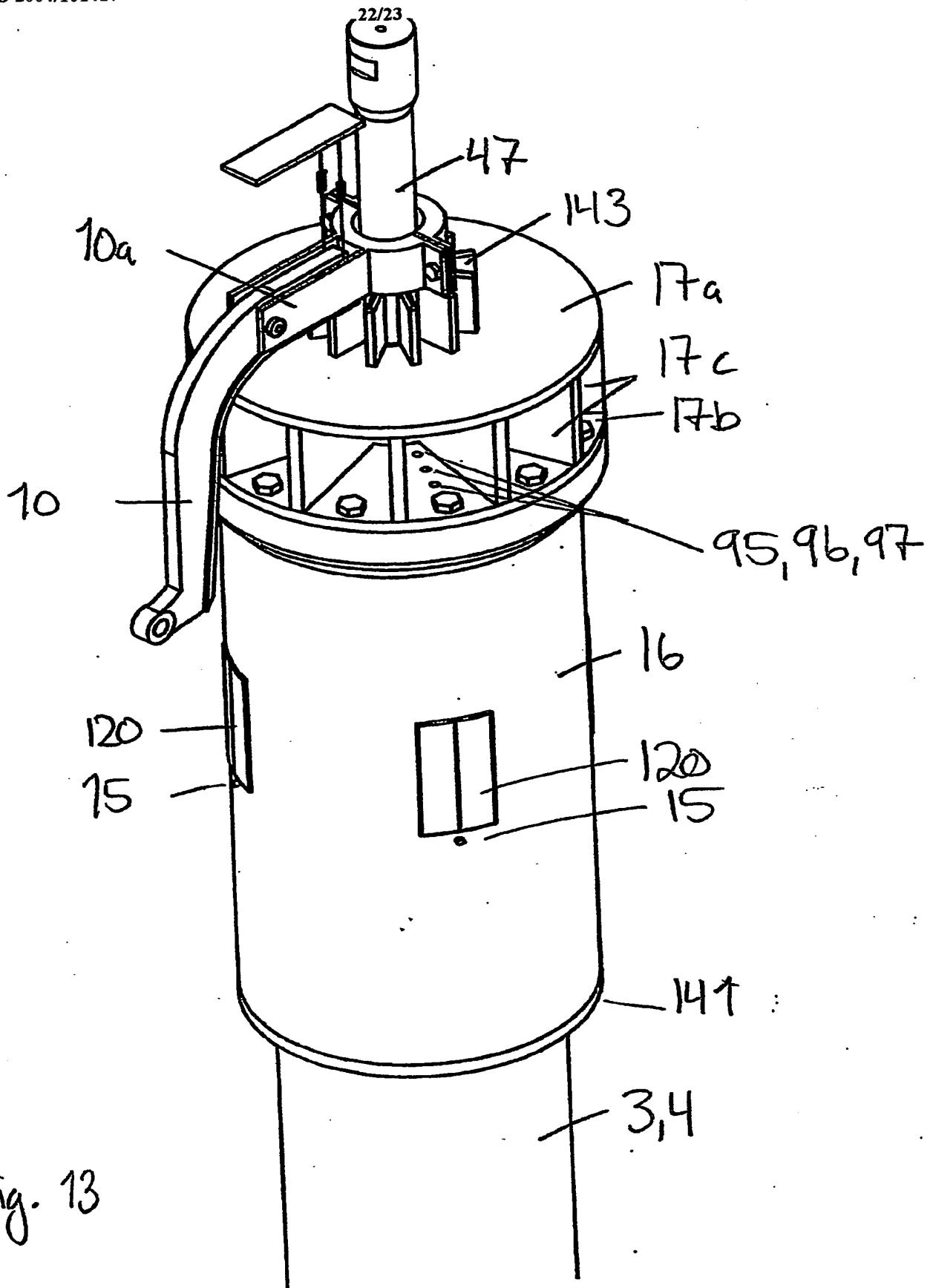


Fig. 13

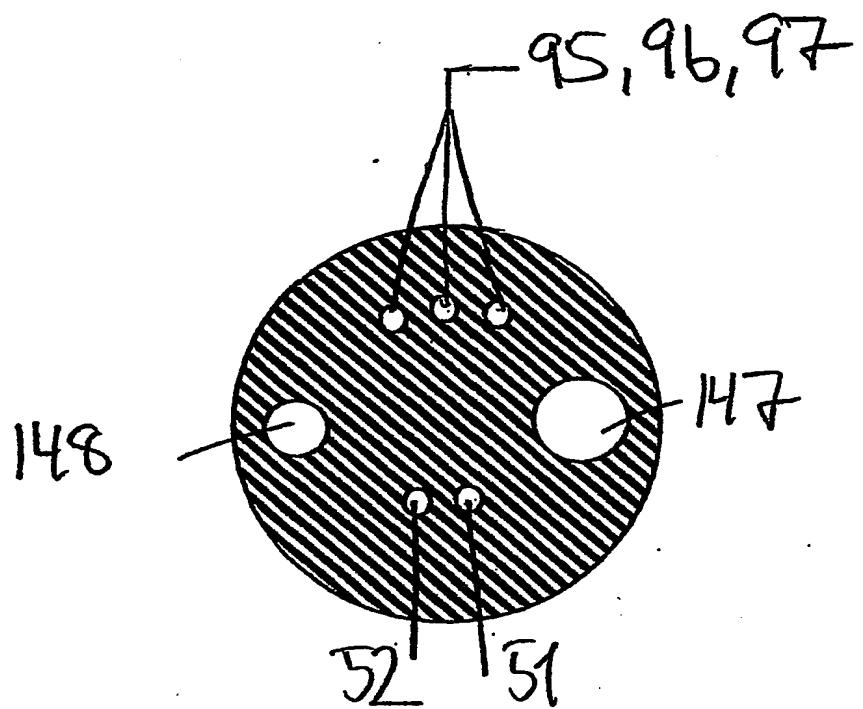


Fig. 14

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

**(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau**



**(43) International Publication Date
25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)**

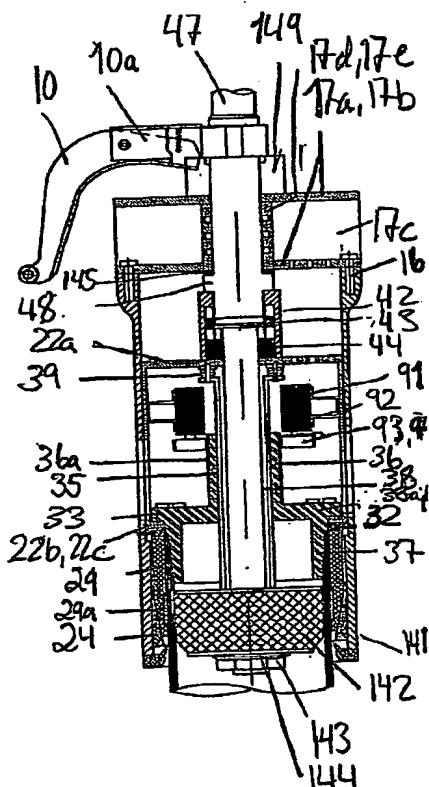
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/101417 A3

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| (51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : | E21B 19/06 | (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW. |
| (21) International Application Number: | PCT/NO2004/000146 | |
| (22) International Filing Date: | 14 May 2004 (14.05.2004) | |
| (25) Filing Language: | English | |
| (26) Publication Language: | English | |
| (30) Priority Data:
20032220 | 15 May 2003 (15.05.2003) | NO |
| (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MECH-LIFT AS [NO/NO]; Skeie, N-4596 Eiken (NO). | | |
| (72) Inventor; and | | |
| (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): CHRISTENSEN, Matheus [NO/NO]; Veddertoppen 61, N-4640 Søgne (NO). | | |

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INTERNAL RUNNING ELEVATOR



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a lifting tool for handling of a pipe-string (2) pipe length (3, 4) for joining and lowering or lifting and disassembly of conductor, casing, risers, drill string, or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160). The invention also relates to a lifting system for lifting or lowering pipe length (3, 4) and pipe-string (2), for joining and lowering or lifting and disassembling of conductor, casing, risers, drill string, or similar in a bore hole (160) or well (160). The lifting system comprises a lifting tool with a lifting part (20) and a support part (5) connected to an elevator apparatus (70) which is mounted to a top drive (60) and where the lifting tool lifting part (20) shall operate in conjunction with a power slip (150) which is configured to receive and hold in a fixed position a standing pipe length or pipe-string (2). Finally the invention comprises a method for lifting of pipe length for joining of pipe length (3, 4) to a pipe-string (2), including conductor, casing, risers, or similar for use in a bore hole or well (160) with the use of a lifting system and lifting tool according to the invention.



Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

3 February 2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NO 2004/000146

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: E21B 19/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: E21B, B66C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3278220 A (A.B. WILSON ET AL), 11 October 1966 (11.10.1966), whole document --	1-3,5-13, 15-17,19-36
X	US 3265431 A (D.L.B. NORMAN), 9 August 1966 (09.08.1966), whole document --	37-45,48-50, 52-54
X	EP 1099824 A2 (CASTILLE, D.J. ET AL), 16 May 2001 (16.05.2001), whole document --	55-56,58-61, 63-73
X	WO 9911902 A1 (WEATHERFORD/LAMB, INC. ET AL), 11 March 1999 (11.03.1999), whole document	82
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 November 2004

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17-11-2004

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Information on patent family members

30/10/2004

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